Charles H. Sanderson
Retrospective

Exhibit Documentation
2024

Charles H. Sanderson
Retrospective 2024
Exhibit Documentation

Birger Sandzén Memorial Art Gallery
Lindsborg, Kansas

"Earth Energies Triptych"
Acrylic, 1984

Index

03 - Index/Introduction
07 - Exhibit brochure
11 - Exhibit development/floor plan
13 - Exhibit 3D model
15 - Exhibit inventory
19 - Shipping the exhibit
21 - Exhibit display cases
24 - Display case inventory
25 - Exhibit Final setup
26 - Exhibit postcards
27 - Exhibit opening photos
31 - Opening lecture
33 - Closing lecture
35 - Lecture original script
41 - Addition media
43 - Display case story panels
57 - WPA (Whiskey Painters of America) information
59 - Shout Online magazine article
70 - Video documentation information
71 - Exhibit brochure cover
back cover - Exhibit featured painting

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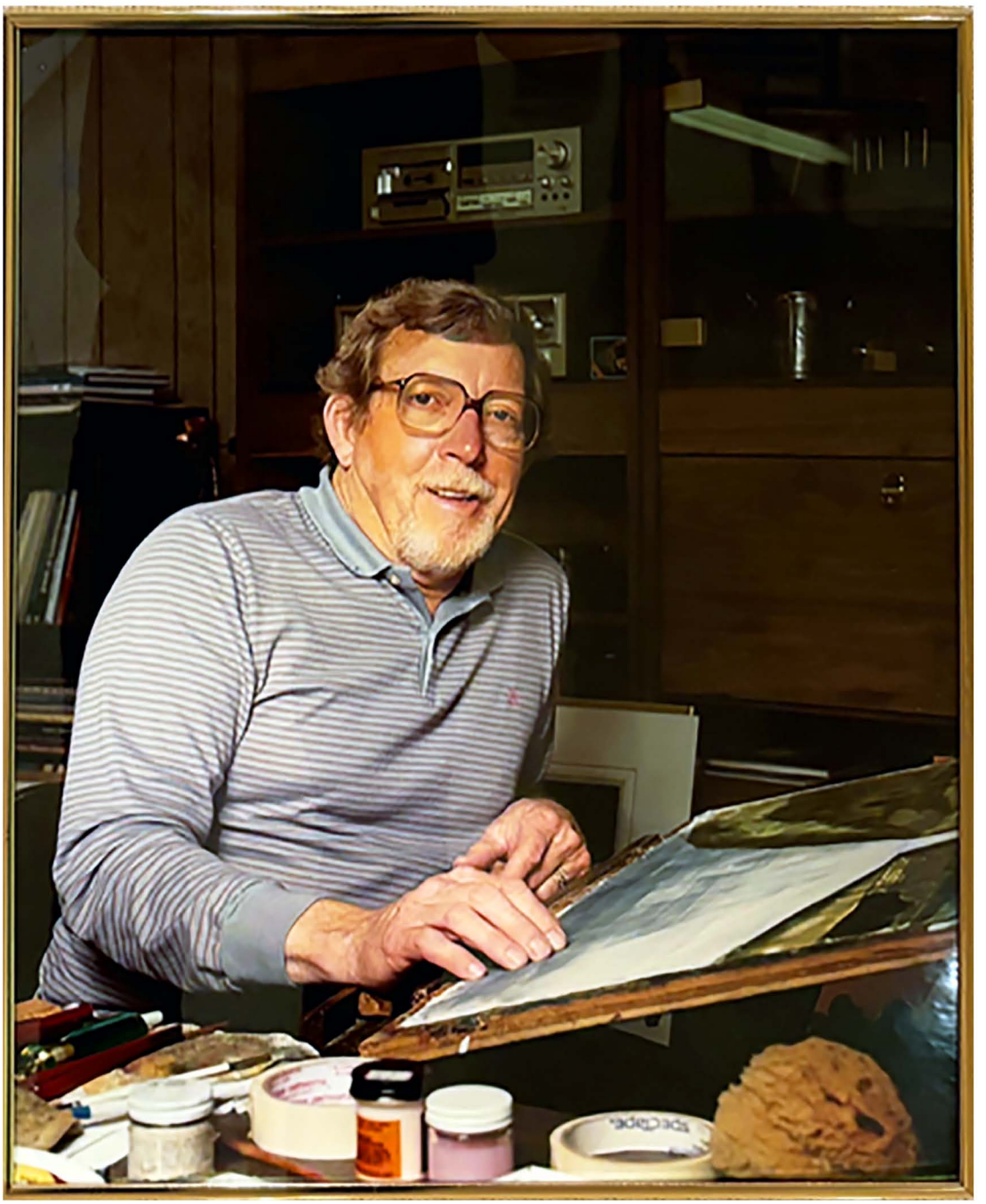
"Fragmentalization"
Watercolor, 1977

Charles H. Sanderson

Retrospective



2024

"Concavature"
Acrylic, 1975

Charles H. Sanderson

From the Prairies to the Mountains, 1978, Acrylic, Wichita Art Museum

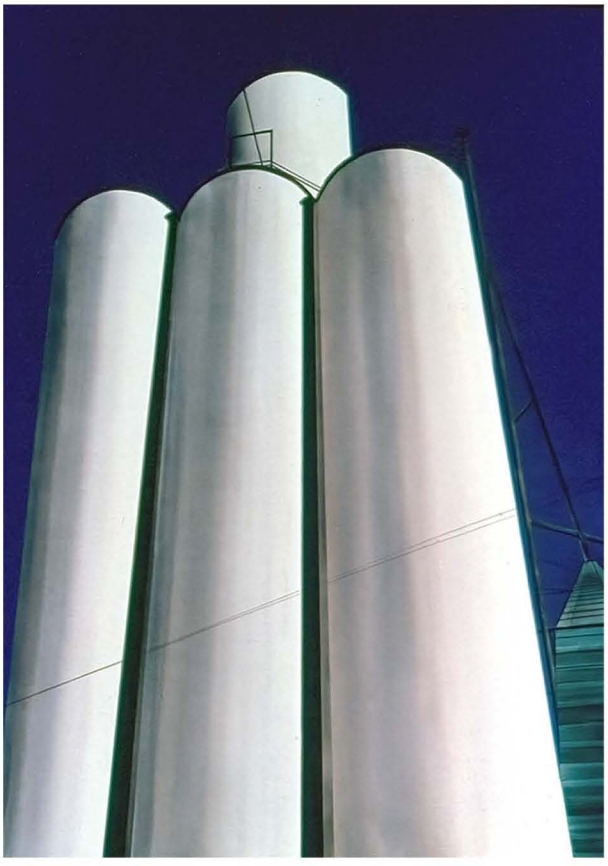
The work of Charles H. Sanderson (1925-1993) reveals an artist who was constantly experimenting and pushing forward, using the rugged land and skyscapes of his native Kansas Flint Hills to showcase his creativity.

With an intuitive knowledge of the rural Kansas lifestyle and a hardy work ethic, Sanderson won renown as a prolific state and regional watercolorist. He eventually exhibited his work nationally and in Europe.

Born in Hamilton, Kansas, Sanderson painted landscapes that reveal a keen eye for observing the details of rural life, including rustic barns, livestock, windmill pumps for watering tanks, and barbed wire fencing.

But his paintings also show a hungry intellect that reached beyond mere realistic expressions. Over time, as a student of art and as an art educator, Sanderson's landscape work moved into experimentation. He adopted innovative techniques, abstract themes, and geometric shapes in not only watercolors, but acrylics, and other art media.

"It's not what's there, or what a photograph shows," Charles said during one of his how-to-paint watercolor demonstrations in the 1970s on Wichita Public Access Television. "It's what you personally see as an artist."



Frontier Heights, 1987, Acrylic, collection of Wichita Art Museum

Although an artist and creative at heart, Sanderson made his living for 35 years as an educator. He taught high school and universities in the Wichita area and classes for the Wichita Art Association and the Wichita Center for the Arts. He also judged many art shows. As a young man, he served in the Army during World War II, receiving a Bronze Star for bravery.

Returning to Kansas, Charles studied architecture at Kansas State University. He transferred to Emporia State University, where he met his future wife and earned a bachelor's degree in art education. He later completed his master's degree in fine arts at Fort Hays State University.

(Page from the program used in exhibit}

In 1952, Charles married Ruth Wachholz, and together, they formed a partnership that advanced his work as an artist and educator. Ruth and Charles both became school teachers, and their early teaching jobs were at high schools in Altoona, Lyons, and El Dorado, Kansas.

They moved to Wichita, where Charles was one of the first art teachers hired to work at the newly constructed South High School. Through his teaching at South High School and his work in the Wichita arts community, Sanderson truly developed his own artistry, and his influence as an educator helped shape the arts community in Kansas.

For over 35 years, he maintained a prolific painting and art instruction schedule. After teaching all day, he often shared his time and talents by volunteering in the evenings to paint backdrops and stage sets for South High School productions. He also worked on several productions at the Wichita Center for the Arts.

In newspaper interviews, Charles revealed that his success came through consistency and hard work. Night after night — from 7 to 11 p.m. — he developed his skills and adventurous approach to the medium.

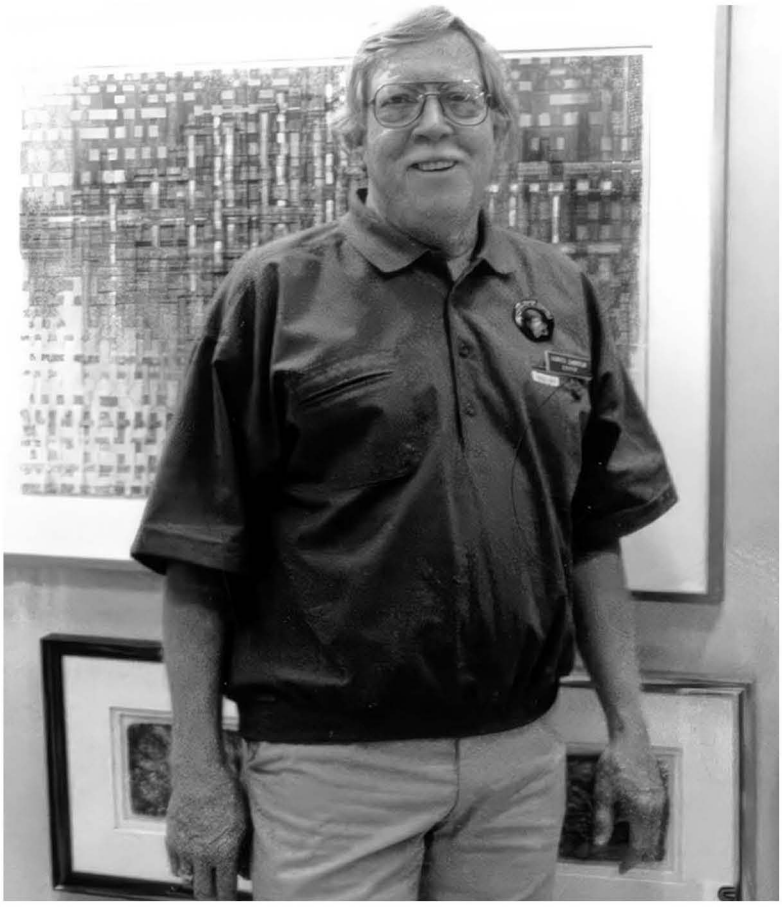
As a teacher, Charles had summers off. So, the family vacations were based around national art fair circuits. Ruth would schedule trips to art fairs as a way for them to earn income by selling Charles' paintings to pay for the trips.

They were regulars at the Wichita Art Fair, the Plaza Art Fair, and the Smokey Hill River Festival. They also visited Ruth's family at art fairs in Montana.

Charles enjoyed getting to know the community of artists who frequented the same fairs, talking and socializing in the evenings afterward. He co-founded the Kansas Watercolor Society, served as president of the Wichita Arts Guild, and was a member of the Whiskey Painters of America.

In 1988, Sanderson received the Governor's Arts Award.
He was featured in many publications, including Who's Who in American Art, Who's Who in the Midwest, and Who's Who in Wichita. His love of teaching art expanded to lectures, community workshops, universities, and art centers.

This exhibit features many examples of his various painting styles. His extensive works are featured in permanent public and private collections worldwide.



Temple, 1986, Acrylic, Collection of The Sanderson Estate

Achievements (selected)

- Past President and Charter member of the Kansas Watercolor Society
- Past President Wichita Artists Guild
- Juror, lecturer, and watercolor workshops
- 1988 Governor's Art Award
- 1987 Arts Recognition Award-Wichita Arts Council
- Member, Whiskey Painters of America

Juried National and Regional Exhibits (selected)

- The Time of the American Farm - Evanston Art Center
- Rocky Mountain National Watermedia - Golden, Colorado
- Watercolor USA - Springfield, Missouri
- Mid-West Biennial - Joslyn Museum-Omaha, Nebraska
- Louisiana Watercolor Society
- 200 Years of Kansas Art – a traveling exhibit
- Kansas Watercolor Society Annual 5-State
- Charles M. Russell Auction – Great Falls, Montana
- American Painters in Paris - Paris, France
- Distinguished Artists Collectors Exhibit - Little Rock, Arkansas
- Topeka Artist Guild Invitational - Capitol Rotunda, Kansas Statehouse
- Four from Kansas - Oklahoma Art Center-Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
- Friends of Art, Summer Exhibition – Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art
- Wichita Sister City Exhibit - Orleans, France
- Plaza Art Fair - Kansas City, Missouri
- Festival of the Masters - Disney World, Florida
- Summer Fair, Yellowstone Art Center - Billings, Montana
- Festival of the Arts - Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
- Park City Arts Festival - Kimball Art Center, Park City, Utah
- Kansas Artists Postcards - Project Association of Community Arts Councils
- The Kansas Landscape - Traveling Exhibit

Charles H. Sanderson- 2024 Retrospective Exhibit

Curation
Cori Schnittke Sherman North
Karla Prickett

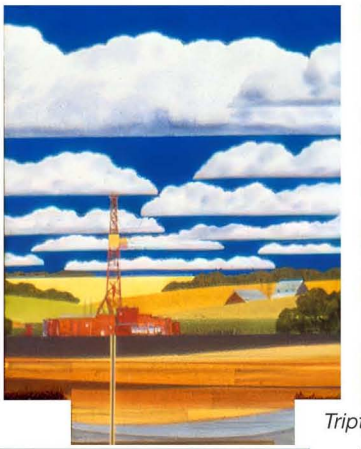
Coordination
Charla Sanderson
Joel Sanderson

Exhibit Initiation
Gayle Sigurdson

Affiliated Collections
Birger Sandzén Memorial Gallery
Art of Emprise, Emprise Bank
Wichita Art Museum
Kansas Oil Museum
Salina Arts Center

Individual Collections
John and Bette Sue Wachholz
Charla Sanderson
Joel Sanderson and Kristina Hermanson
Karin Sanderson-Swanson

Special Thanks
Mike Michaelis
Tera Hedrick
Misty Serene
Dee Volpert
Dave Toplikar
Paul Wachholz
Leila Campbell & Matt Watson



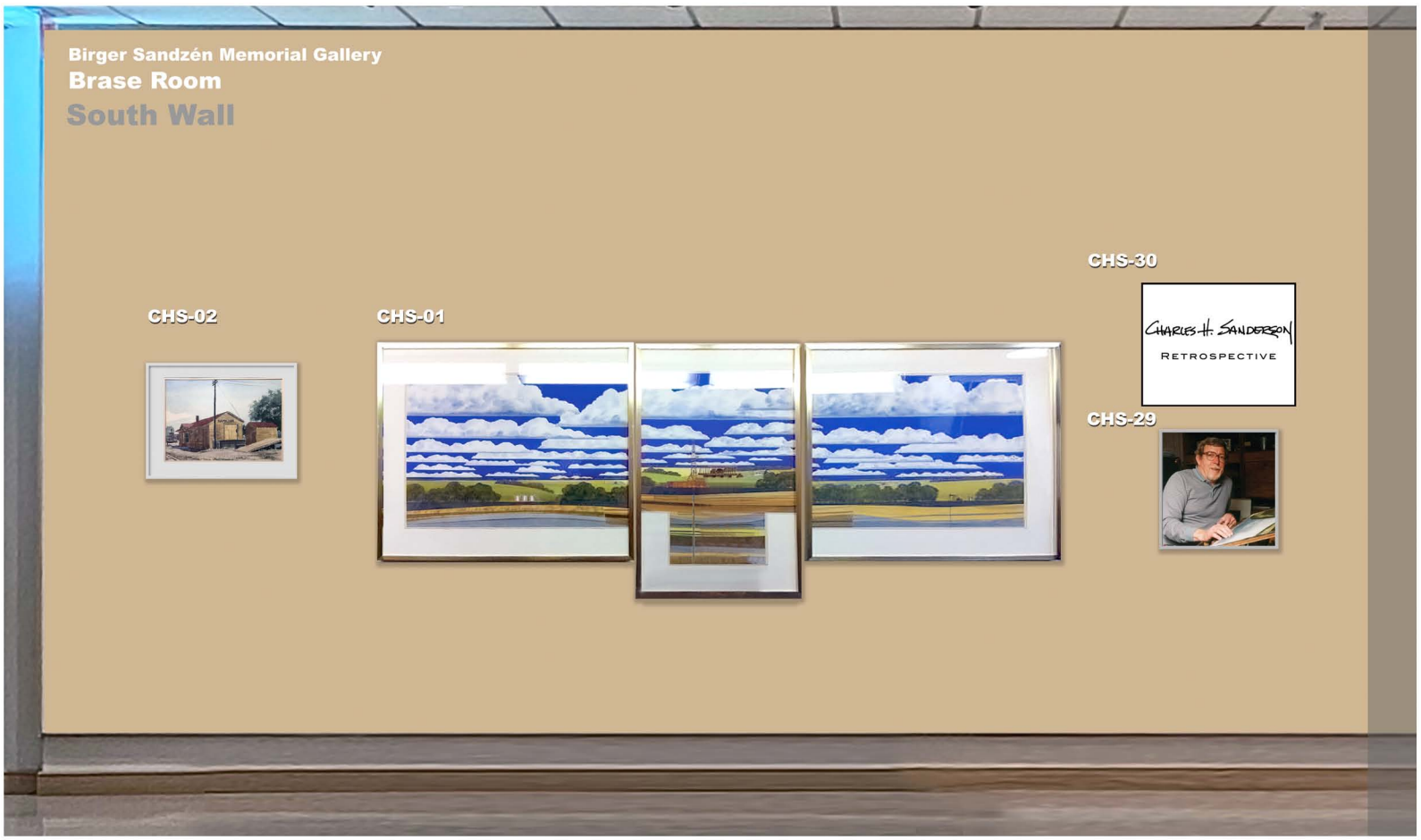
Triptych, Acrylic, 1984, collection of Kansas Oil Museum

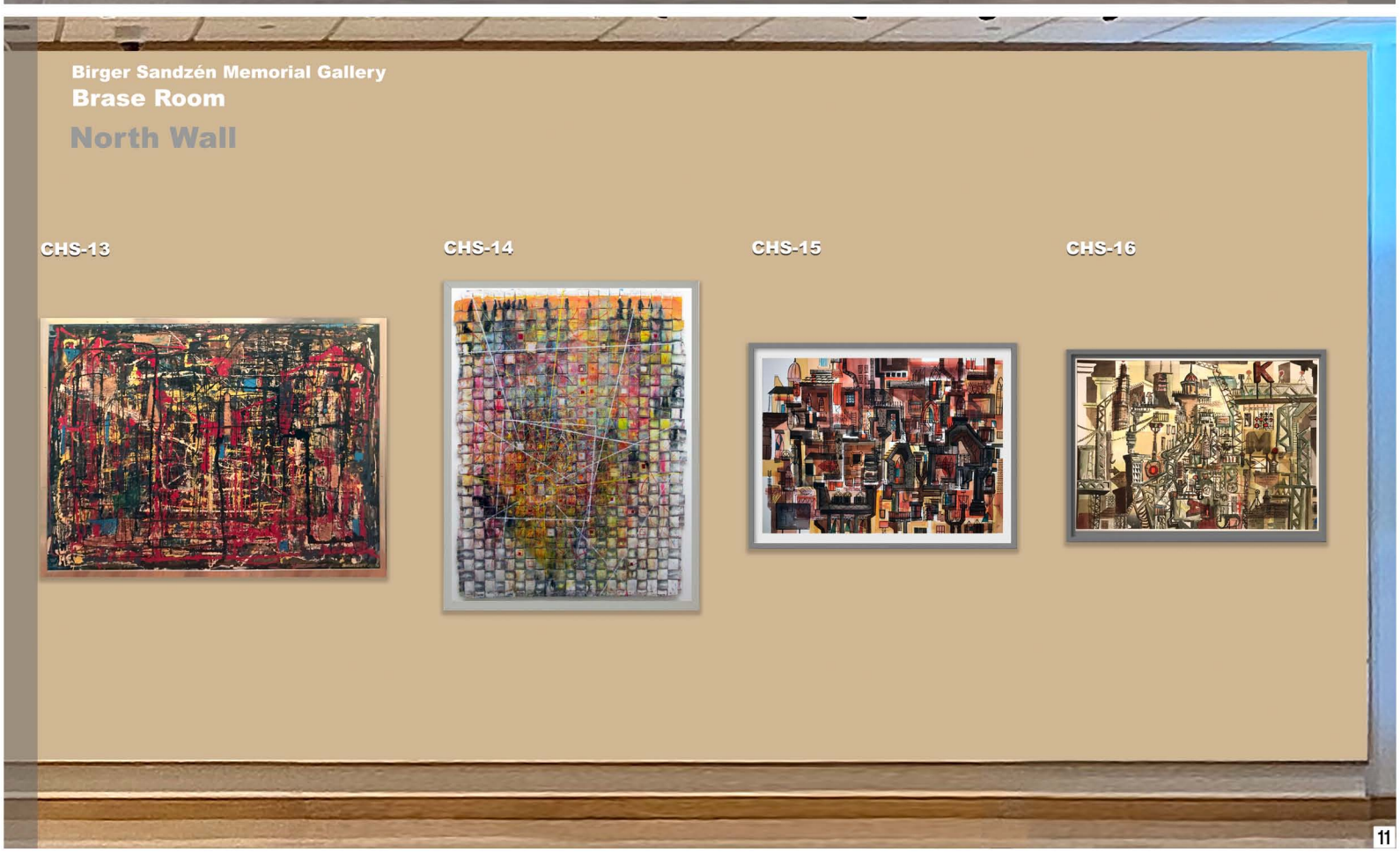
Birger Sandzén Memorial Gallery
401 N. First Street
Lindsborg, KS 67456
www.sandzen.org

(Page from the program used in exhibit}

"From the Prairies to the Mountains"
Wichita Art Museum Collection
Watercolor, 1978

To organize the exhibition in advance, replica layouts of the Birger Sandzén Gallery Brase Room were created in Photoshop. Using these layouts, the pairings and placement of the paintings could be rearranged repeatedly to develop the final configuration. Here are the final layouts for the north and south gallery walls.





Birger Sandzén Memorial Gallery

Brase Room

East Wall

CHS-03

CHS-04

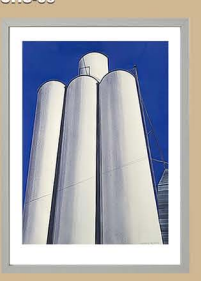
CHS-05

CHS-06

CHS-07

CHS-08

CHS-09



CHS-10

CHS-11

CHS-12

Birger Sandzén Memorial Gallery

Brase Room

West Wall

CHS-17

CHS-18

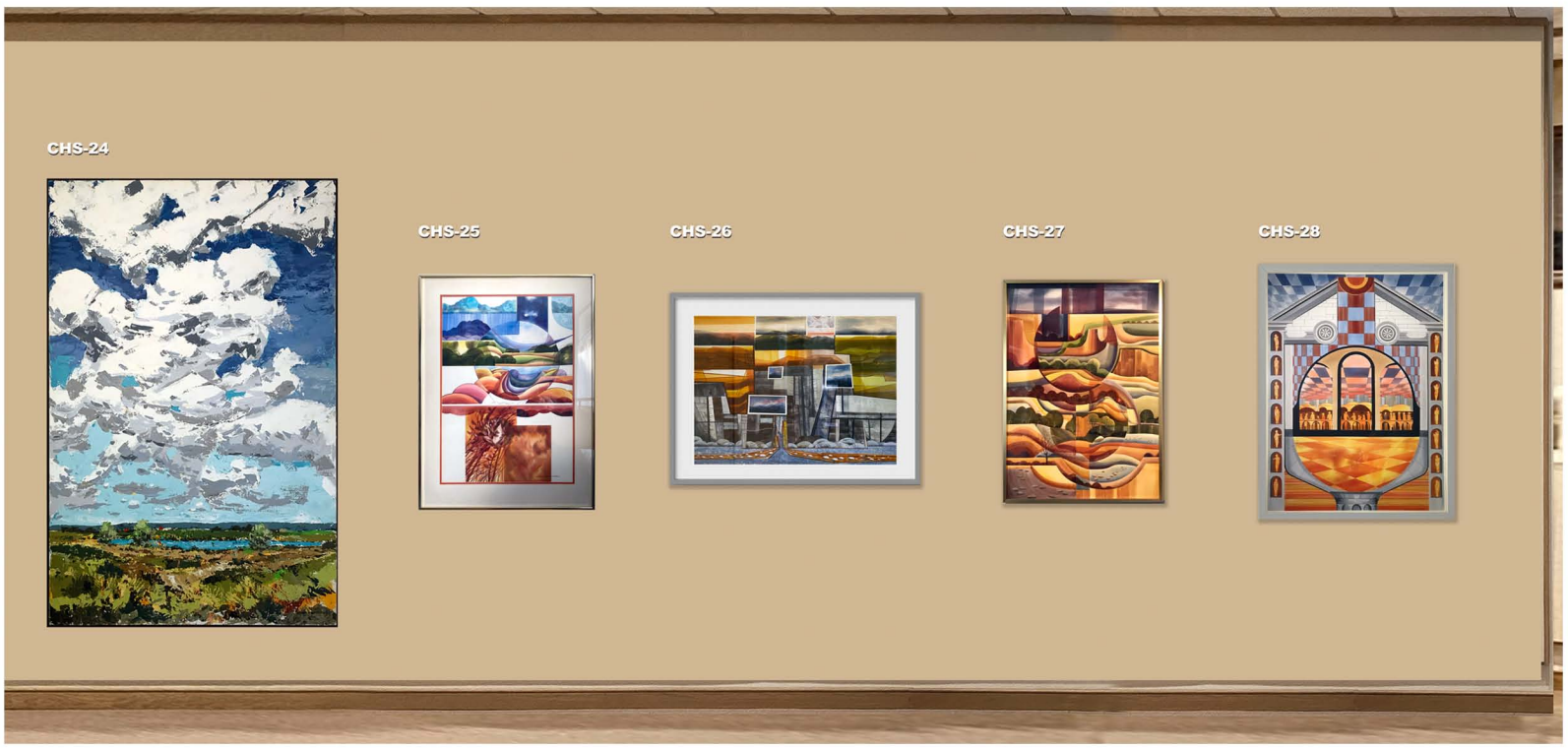
CHS-19

CHS-20

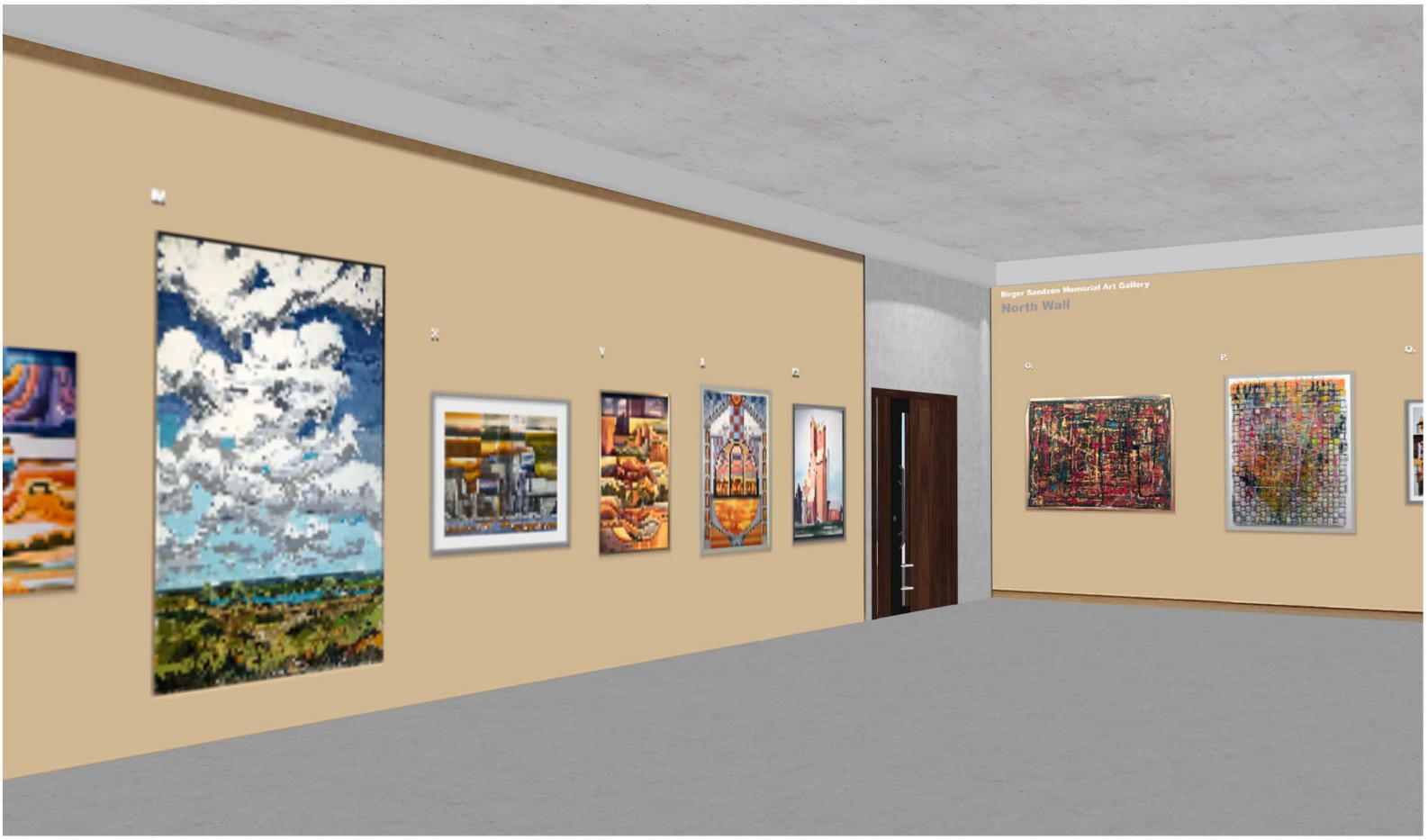
CHS-21

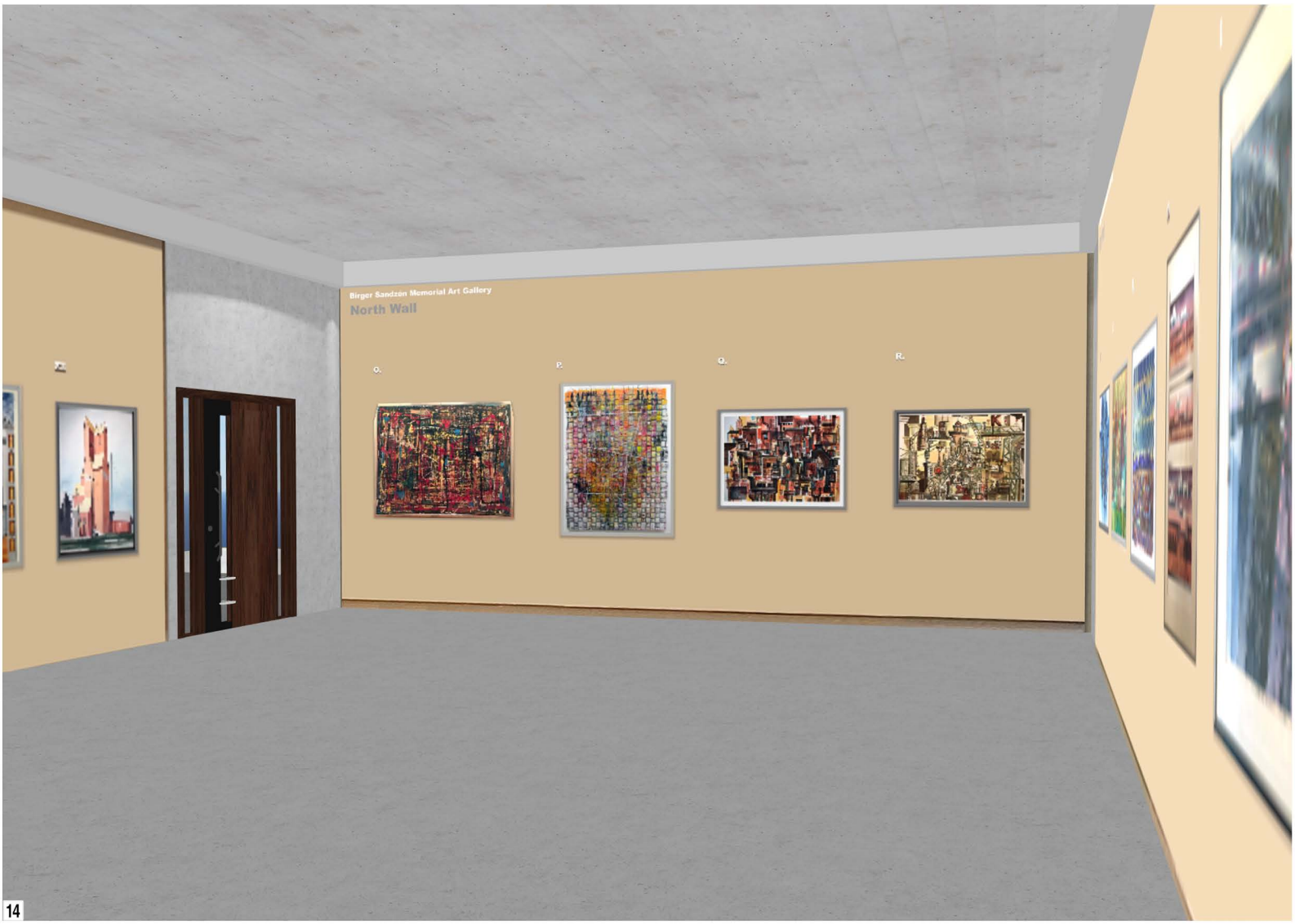
CHS-22

CHS-23



To better understand how the exhibit would appear and how the paintings interact, a three-dimensional model was built. This allowed the exhibit to be experienced through a virtual walkthrough, providing a sense of the placement and pairing of the works. Here are example views of the three-dimensional space.


Birger Sandzén Memorial Art Gallery
North Wall

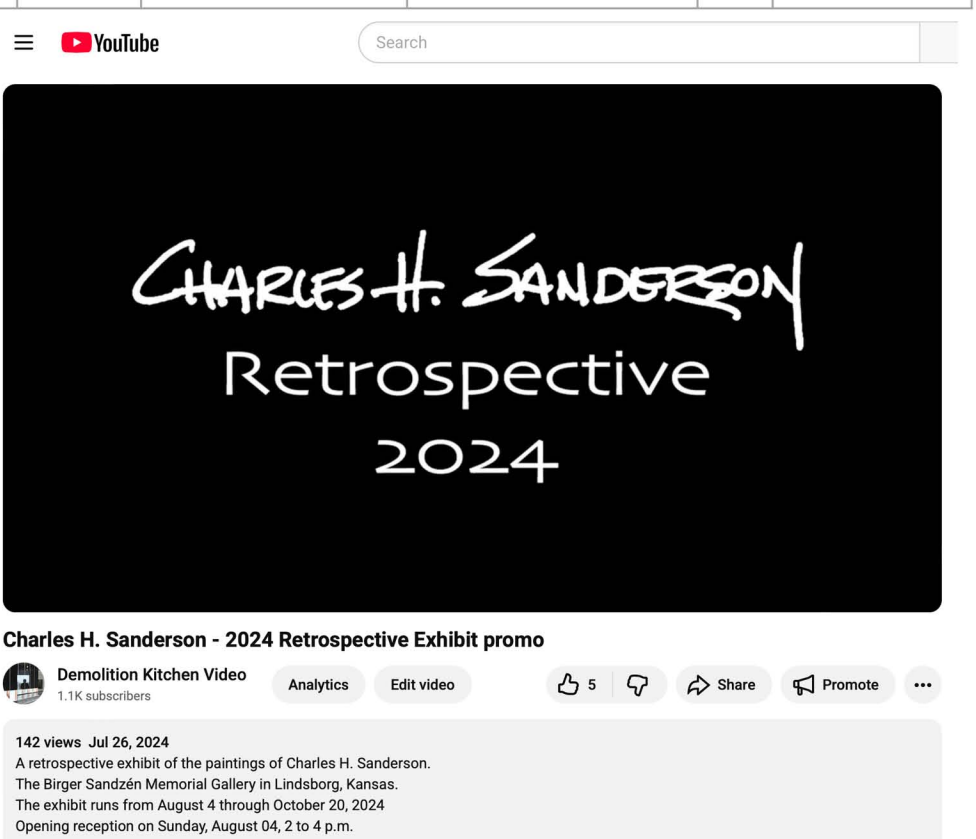

Birger Sandzén Memorial Art Gallery
North Wall

This is the inventory of the exhibit, including paintings and objects featured in the show.

Charles H. Sanderson: Retrospective, Birger Sandzen Gallery Inventory						
ID#	**Title**	**Year**	**Medium**	**Collection**	**Price**	**Note**
CHS-01	***Earth Energies Triptych***	1984	Acrylic	Kansas Oil Museum	NFS	
CHS-02	***Hamilton Train Station***	1959	Watercolor	Joel Sanderson	NFS	
CHS-03	***Inner Urban***	1970	Watercolor	Art of Emprise	NFS	
CHS-04	***Earth Station Geo***	1989	Acrylic	John and Bette Sue Wachholz	NFS	
CHS-05	***Kansas Landscape Triptych***	1980	Watercolor	Joel Sanderson	NFS	
CHS-06	***Untitled***	1990	Acrylic	Salina Arts Center	NFS	
CHS-07	***Playful Heights***	1991	Acrylic	Joel Sanderson	NFS	
CHS-08	***Concavature***	1975	Acrylic	Joel Sanderson	NFS	
CHS-09	***Frontier Heights***	1984	Acrylic	Wichita Art Museum	NFS	
CHS-10	***Confusedness***	1989	Acrylic	Charla Sanderson	NFS	
CHS-11	***Geometal***	1991	Acrylic	Charla Sanderson	NFS	
CHS-12	***Arcistration***	1992	Acrylic	Joel Sanderson	NFS	
CHS-13	***Impact***	1954	Oil	Joel Sanderson	NFS	
CHS-14	***Intagrid***	1988	Acrylic	Art of Emprise	NFS	
CHS-15	***Faces and Windows***	1966	Watercolor	Joel Sanderson		
CHS-16	***Construction***	1961	Watercolor	Joel Sanderson		
CHS-17	***Foothills Panorama***	1980	Watercolor	Joel Sanderson	NFS	
CHS-18	***Sky Circles***	1979	Watercolor	Joel Sanderson	NFS	WPA
CHS-19	***Moonlit***	1976	Watercolor	Charla Sanderson	$750	WPA
CHS-20	***Mountain Weather***	1959	Watercolor	Charla Sanderson	NFS	
CHS-21	***Wood Edge II***	circa 1970's	Watercolor	Birger Sandzen Gallery	NFS	
CHS-22	***Trinocular***	1975	Watercolor	Joel Sanderson	NFS	
CHS-23	***From the Prairies to the Mountains***	1978	Watercolor	Wichita Art Museum	NFS	
CHS-24	***Cumulusness***	1979	Acrylic	Joel Sanderson	NFS	
CHS-25	***Monocular***	1978	Watercolor	Charla Sanderson	$1500	
CHS-26	***Foothills Design Squares***	1980	Watercolor	Charla Sanderson	NFS	
CHS-27	***Fragmentalization***	1977	Watercolor	Joel Sanderson	NFS	
CHS-28	***Temple***	1987	Watercolor	Joel Sanderson	NFS	
CHS-29	Charles H. Sanderson photo		Photograph	Charla Sanderson	NFS	
CHS-30	Charles H. Sanderson exhibit sign		Print on wood	Joel Sanderson		
CHS-31	Ruth & Charlie cups		Ceramic	Charla Sanderson	NFS	Display cases
CHS-32	Curved wooden box		Wood	Charla Sanderson	NFS	Display cases
CHS-33	Cylindrical wooden box		Wood	Charla Sanderson	NFS	Display cases
CHS-34	Metal figure		Cast metal	Charla Sanderson	NFS	Display cases
CHS-35	Alpha-Interlocking sculpture		Cast metal	Charla Sanderson	NFS	Display cases
CHS-36	Monte-Carlo Europe exhibit poster		Paper print & stand	Joel Sanderson	NFS	Display cases
CHS-37	CHS Governors award certificate		Paper print & stand	Joel Sanderson	NFS	Display cases
CHS-38	Cast metal figure/wood base #1		Wood & cast metal	Joel Sanderson	NFS	Display cases
CHS-39	Cast metal figure/wood base #2		Wood & cast metal	Joel Sanderson	NFS	Display cases
CHS-40	Wood cylinder box/plastic inlay		Wood & Acrylic plastic	Joel Sanderson	NFS	Display cases
CHS-41	Super Sanderson medalion		Cast metal	Joel Sanderson	NFS	Display cases
CHS-42	3 Watercolor landscape buttons		Watercolor & button mount	Joel Sanderson	NFS	Display cases
CHS-43	Jewelry set		Metal Jewelry	Joel Sanderson	NFS	Display cases
CHS-44	Cast metal pendant		Cast metal	Joel Sanderson	NFS	Display cases
CHS-45	CHS WWII Bronze Star		Award & display case	Joel Sanderson	NFS	Display cases
CHS-46	Super Sanderson cape		Cloth (Ruth Sanderson)	Joel Sanderson	NFS	Display cases

CHS-47	Ascension Lutheran Church Stained Glass design		Watercolor board	Joel Sanderson	NFS	Display cases
CHS-48	Wichita River Festival button design		Watercolor board	Joel Sanderson	NFS	Display cases
CHS-49	Small wooden fish		Wood & Acrylic plastic	Joel Sanderson	NFS	Display cases
CHS-50	CHS 1969s watercolor sketches		Ink pen on paper	Joel Sanderson	NFS	Display cases
CHS-51	1950s Drafting class rendering		Ink pen on paper	Joel Sanderson	NFS	Display cases
CHS-52	Scholastic Judging		Photograph	Joel Sanderson	NFS	Display cases
CHS-53	Whiskey Painters of American info		Paper print	Joel Sanderson	NFS	Wall mount
CHS-54	Palette knife		Object	Joel Sanderson	NFS	Display cases
CHS-55	2 Acrylic paint sketches		Watercolor on paper	Joel Sanderson	NFS	Display cases
CHS-56	Sketch sheet w/15 b/w drawings #1		Ink pen on paper	Joel Sanderson	NFS	Display cases
CHS-57	Sketch sheet w/15 b/w drawings #2		Ink pen on paper	Joel Sanderson	NFS	Display cases
CHS-58	Hunt Bienfang Sketchbook		Various sketches	Joel Sanderson	NFS	Display cases
CHS-59	Cartoon, Charles and Ruth #1		Ink pen on paper	Joel Sanderson	NFS	Display cases
CHS-60	Cartoon, Charles and Ruth #2 w/kids		Ink pen on paper	Joel Sanderson	NFS	Display cases
CHS-61	College cartoon #1		Ink pen on paper	Joel Sanderson	NFS	Display cases
CHS-62	C.H. Sanderson photo		Mounted on board	Joel Sanderson	NFS	Display cases
CHS-63	Ascension Lutheran Church windows		2 Photographs	Joel Sanderson	NFS	Display cases
CHS-63	C.H. Sanderson photo contact sheet		Paper print & stand	Joel Sanderson	NFS	Display cases
CHS-65	CHS Serigraph print		Screenprint	Joel Sanderson	NFS	Display cases
CHS-66	Smoky Hill River Fest info		Paper print & stand	Joel Sanderson	NFS	Display cases
CHS-67	Kansas Governor's Award info		Paper print & stand	Joel Sanderson	NFS	Display cases
CHS-68	CHS WWII info		Paper print & stand	Joel Sanderson	NFS	Display cases
CHS-69	Hamilton Newspaper (mock-up)		Paper print & stand	Joel Sanderson	NFS	Display cases
CHS-70	CHS Stage Set Painting info		Paper print & stand	Joel Sanderson	NFS	Display cases
CHS-71	CHS Super Sanderson info		Paper print & stand	Joel Sanderson	NFS	Display cases
CHS-72	CHS South High Art Room A1 info		Paper print & stand	Joel Sanderson	NFS	Display cases
CHS-73	CHS & Ruth City Life Photo		Paper print & stand	Joel Sanderson	NFS	Display cases
CHS-74	CHS Paintbrush		Paint brush	Joel Sanderson	NFS	Display cases
CHS-75	CHS Paintbrush		Paint brush	Joel Sanderson	NFS	Display cases

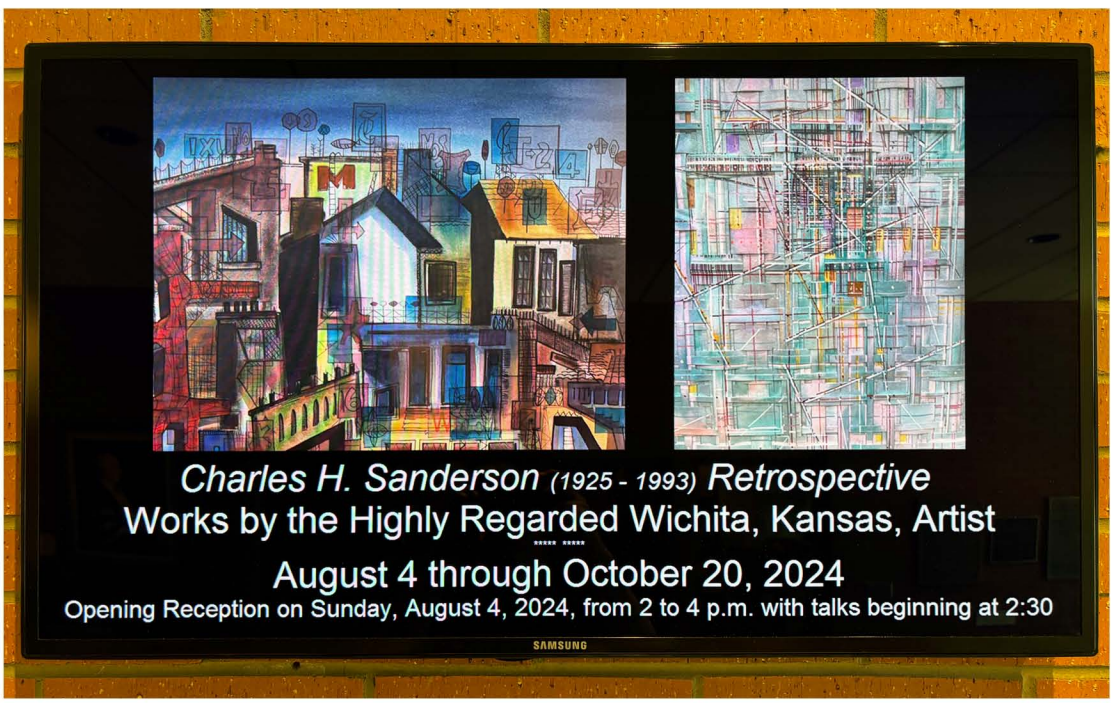
Several promotional videos were created for online and Social Media services.



Charles H. Sanderson - Retrospective, Planning & Tasks (Proposed Layout #5)

ID	Title	Location	Status	Display Status	Year	Gallery Wall	Comments
A	CHS photo	Kansas City	Cleared	Framed		South	
A2	Exhibit statement	Berger Sandzen Gallery				South	Needs to be written
B	Exhibit wall title	Berger Sandzen Gallery	Proposed			South	Needs to be created
C	(Oil Triptych)	Coutts Museum of Art, ElDorado	**Need to request**	Framed		South	
D	Hamlition Train Station	Lawrence	Cleared	Framed		South	
E	Inner Urban	Emprise Bank Collection	**Need to request**	Framed		East	(Cityscape)
F	(Abstract Cityscape)	Wachholz/Lawrence	Cleared	Framed		East	
G	Kansas Landscape Triptych	Lawrence	Cleared	Framed		East	(3 Landscapes)
H	Untitled	Salina Art Center	**Need to request**	Framed		East	(Woven Abstract)
I	Playful Heights	Lawrence	Cleared	Framed		East	
J	Concavature	Lawrence	Cleared	Framed		East	
K	Frontier Heights	Wichita Art Museum	**Need to request**	Framed		East	(Grain Elevators)
L	Confusedness	Kansas City	Cleared	Framed	1989	East	(Woven Abstract)
M	Geometal	Kansas City	Cleared	Framed	1991	East	(Grey Texture Abstract)
N	Arcistration	Lawrence	Cleared	Framed		East	(Ascension)
O	Impact	Lawrence	Cleared	Framed		North	(Oil painting, 1950s Abstract)
P	Intagrid	Emprise Bank Collection	**Need to request**	Framed		North	(Woven Abstract)
Q	Faces and Windows	Lawrence	Cleared	Framed		North	(Abstract Cityscape)
R	Construction	Lawrence	Cleared	Framed		North	(Abstract Cityscape)
S1	Foothills Panorama	Lawrence	Cleared	Framed		West	(Medium landscape)
S2	Sky Circles	Lawrence	Cleared	Framed		West	(Small WPA)
S3	Moonlit	Kansas City	Cleared	Framed		West	(Small WPA)
T	Mountain Weather	Kansas City	Cleared	Framed	1960	West	(Abstract Landscape)
U	Wood Edge II	Berger Sandzen Gallery	**Need to request**	Framed	circa 1970	West	
V	Trinocular	Lawrence	Cleared	Framed		West	(3 circle landscape)
W	From the Prairies to the Mountains	Wichita Art Museum	**Need to request**	Framed		West	(Large abstract landscape)
X	Cumulusness	Lawrence	Cleared	Framed	1979	West	(Large Landscape)
Y	Monocular	Kansas City	Cleared	Framed		West	(Abstract Landscape)
Z	Foothills Design Squares	Kansas City	Cleared	Framed	1980	West	(Abstract Landscape)
Z2	Fragmentalization	Lawrence	Cleared	Framed		West	(Dreamscape)
Z3	Temple	Lawrence	Cleared	Framed		West	(Dream painting)
							Updated: 04/15/24

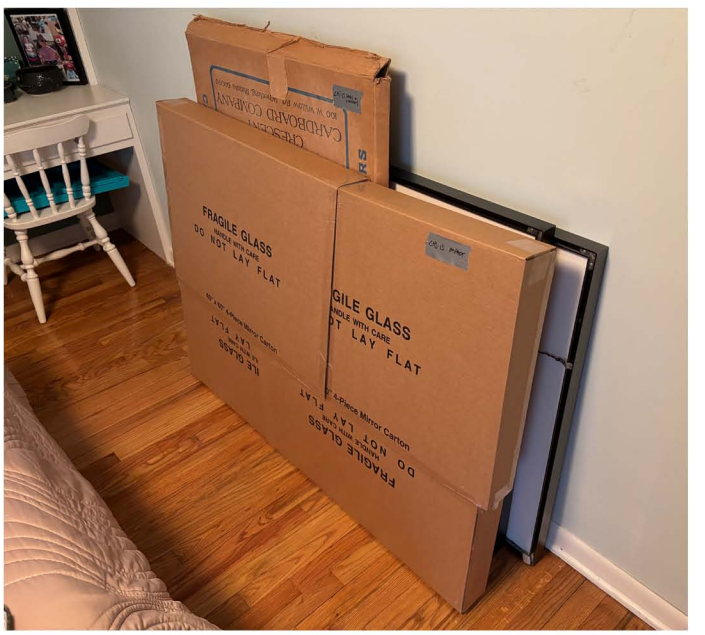
This is the Birger Sandzen Gallery's lobby advertising display, featuring a promo card for the exhibit.



"Temple"
Watercolor, 1987

Most of the works included in the exhibition came from the Kansas City area. The Birger Sandzén Gallery was kind enough to pick up and return the paintings used in the show. The works were largely centralized in Lawrence, as this was the most efficient way to gather them in one place and make packing easier. Once everything was ready, the gallery came

Many of Charles H. Sanderson's original portfolios were used.



Sanderson's earliest works requried special packing.

Most of the exhibit fit into the Birger Sandzén Gallery's van, here seen packed and ready to go.

"Playful Heights"
Acrylic, 1991

The Sanderson family felt that the exhibit could benefit from including stories to accompany the paintings. After experimenting with presenting the stories as wall panels integrated into the gallery walls, it became clear that this approach visually cluttered the exhibition.

The gallery offered several display cases for exhibiting objects, photographs, and small works. The story panels were then placed in these display cases using restaurant display stands (shown left, turned backward). The arrangement of the display cases was planned in advance and mapped out for installation in the exhibit before the opening.
(below, tape layouts set the size for early organization)

Here are the finalized display case layouts that were sent to the gallery for approval.

Charles H. Sanderson: Retrospective - Display case #01

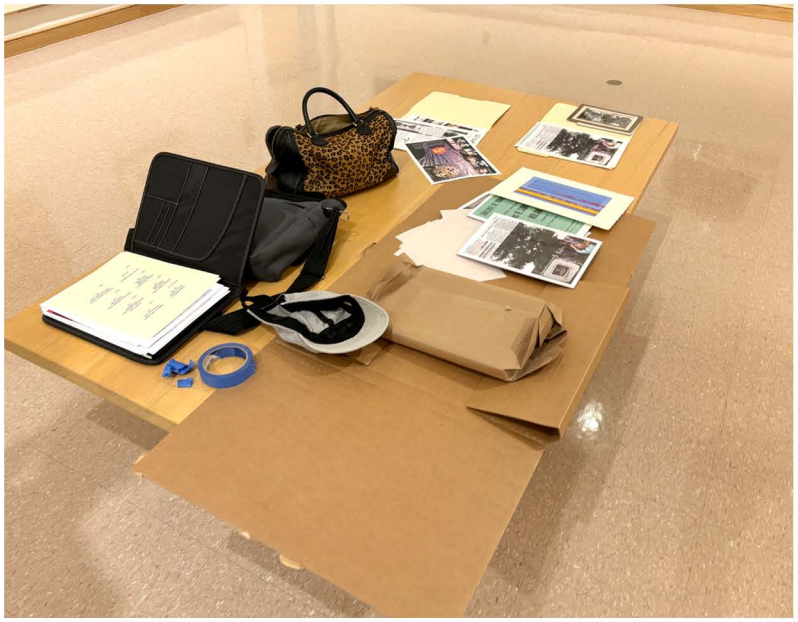
Charles H. Sanderson: Retrospective - Display case #02

Final version of the exhibit display cases

Charles H. Sanderson Retrospective - Display case inventory

	Item	Medium	Location	Description	Clearance
	Polar bear	Sculpture	Kansas City	Carved marble	Cleared
	Ruth & Charlie cups	Pottery	Kansas City	Handmade wine cups	Cleared
	Crucifiction	Woodworking	Kansas City		Cleared
	Curved wooden box	Woodworking	Kansas City		Cleared
	Cylindrical wooden box	Woodworking	Kansas City		Cleared
	Metal figure	Metal cast	Kansas City		Cleared
	Alpha-Interlocking metal piece	Metal cast	Kansas City		Cleared
	Monte-Carlo Europe exhibit poster	Paper print	Lawrence		Cleared
	CHS Governors award certificate	Paper print	Lawrence		Cleared
	Cast metal figure/wood base #1	Woodworking	Lawrence		Cleared
	Cast metal figure/wood base #2	Woodworking	Lawrence		Cleared
	Wood cylinder box/plastic inlay	Woodworking	Lawrence		Cleared
	Super Sanderson medalion	Metal cast	Lawrence		Cleared
	Our Common School Heritage	Book	Lawrence	Cover artwork	Cleared
	3 Watercolor buttons	Home made	Lawrence	Contain original paintings	Cleared
	2 CHS photo buttons	Home made	Lawrence		Cleared
	Jewelry set	Metal cast	Lawrence	Earrings & pendant	Cleared
	Cast metal pendant	Metal cast	Lawrence		Cleared
	CHS WWII glasses	Object	Lawrence	Military prescription	Cleared
	CHS WWII Bronze Star	Object	Lawrence		Cleared
	CHS WWII CO Bronze Star letter	Object	Lawrence		Cleared
	Super Sanderson cape	Cloth piece	Lawrence	Made by Ruth Sanderson	Cleared
	Ascension Lutheran Church Stained Glass	Watercolor board	Lawrence	Colored marker original	Cleared
	Wichita River Festival button design	Watercolor board	Lawrence	Watercolor design	Cleared
	Small wooden fish	Woodworking	Lawrence		Cleared
	Music Theater of Wichita calendar	Printed piece	Lawrence	CHS artwork design	Cleared
	CHS 1969s watercolor sketches	Watercolor paper	Lawrence	Medium sized	Cleared
	1950s Drafting class rendering	Paper	Lawrence	Rendering of Hamilton home	Cleared
	Small ink print cityscape sketch	Paper	Lawrence		Cleared
	Small watercolor painting “Chicago”	Watercolor paper	Lawrence		Cleared
	CHS 1990 brochure sheet	Paper	Lawrence		Cleared
	KWS black & white print	Paper	Lawrence		Cleared
	Photograph Scholastic Judging	Photo	Lawrence	9.5” x 13.75”	Cleared
	CHS Watercolor w/ Jon Roe poem	Matted 2-piece	Lawrence		Cleared
	CHS framed signture	Print	Lawrence		Cleared
	CHS Waddington St. Studio sign	Woodworking	Lawrence		Cleared
	Whiskey Painters of American certificate	Paper	Phoenix	WPA	Cleared
	CHS Governors award signed letter	Paper	Phoenix	Mike Hayden	Cleared
	Jewelry set	Woodworking	Lawrence	Earrings & pendant	Cleared
	CHS Waddington St. Studio logo	Woodworking	Lawrence		Cleared
	CHS business card	Paper	Lawrence		Cleared
	Palette knife	Painting tool	Lawrence	Used by Sanderson	Cleared
	Topeka handwritten name badge	Paper/Plastic sleeve	Lawrence		Cleared
	2 Acrylic paint sketches	Watercolor paper	Lawrence	Both on same sheet	Cleared
	Sketch sheet w/15 b/w drawings #1	Paper	Lawrence		Cleared
	Sketch sheet w/15 b/w drawings #2	Paper	Lawrence		Cleared
	Wichita Public Schools certificate	Framed	Lawrence	Years of service	Cleared
	Crucifix Hedge	Woodworking	Lawrence		Cleared
	Hunt Bienfang Sketchbook	Paper	Lawrence	Late 1980 painting sketches	Cleared
	Cartoon, Charles and Ruth #1	Art board	Lawrence		Cleared
	Cartoon, Charles and Ruth #2 w/kids	Art board	Lawrence		Cleared
	Cartoon, Charles and Ruth #3, behind tree	Mounted on board	Lawrence		Cleared
	College cartoon #1	Paper	Lawrence		Cleared
	C.H. Sanderson photo	Mounted on board	Lawrence		Cleared
	Ascension Lutheran Church windows	6 Photos/sheet	Lawrence		Cleared
	Ascension Lutheran Church windows	9 Photos/sheet	Lawrence	Glass construction	Cleared

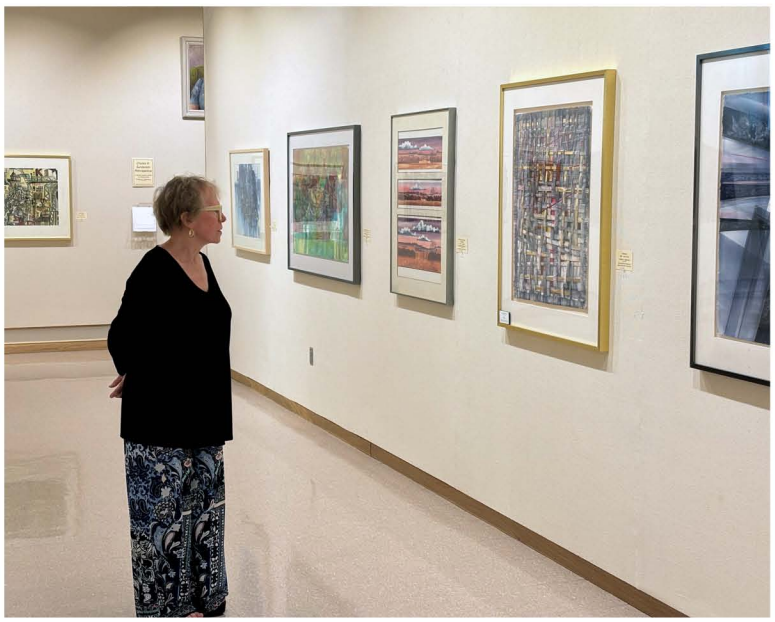
Final setup up at The Birger Sandzén Gallery



Unpacking the contents of the display cases.

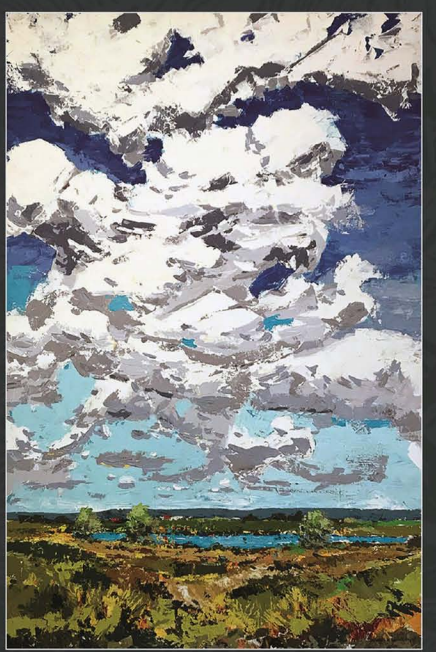
Organizing the display cases, based on the layout designs.

Charla Sanderson checking the placement of the items.



Charla checking the finalized exhibit.

Adverting postcards created for the exhibit, (top) The Birger Sandzén Gallery's card (bottom) the Sanderson family postcard version.

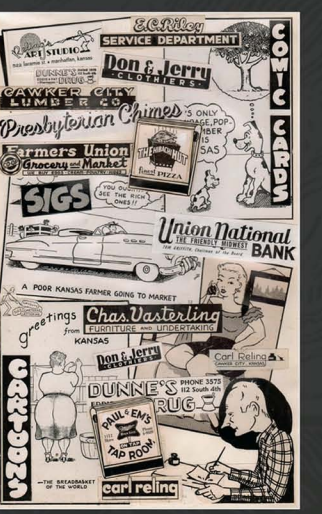


Impact by **Charles H. Sanderson**

Birger Sandzén
Memorial Gallery

Hugging the Moon by **Noah Flores**

Composite of **Carl Reling's** graphic work



Tall in the Saddle by **Johne Richardson**

Charles H. Sanderson
Retrospective

The Birger Sandzén Memorial Gallery
August 4 through October 20, 2024
Opening Reception - Sunday, August 04, 2 to 4 p.m.

10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday through Saturday
1 to 5 p.m. on Sunday

401 North First Street
Lindsborg, Kansas
785-227-2220

Opening of the exhibit, The Birger Sandzén Gallery

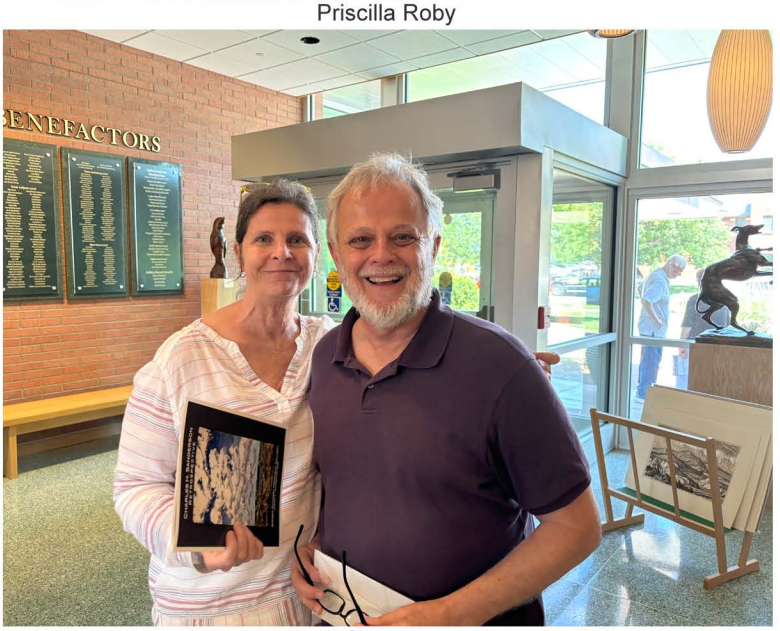
John and Bette Sue Wachholz, relative and contributors to the show.

Kris Hermanson talks with Dave Toplikar, who wrote the bio for the exhibit program.

Charla Sanderson with Priscilla Roby (Ruth Sanderson's sister)

Priscilla Roby

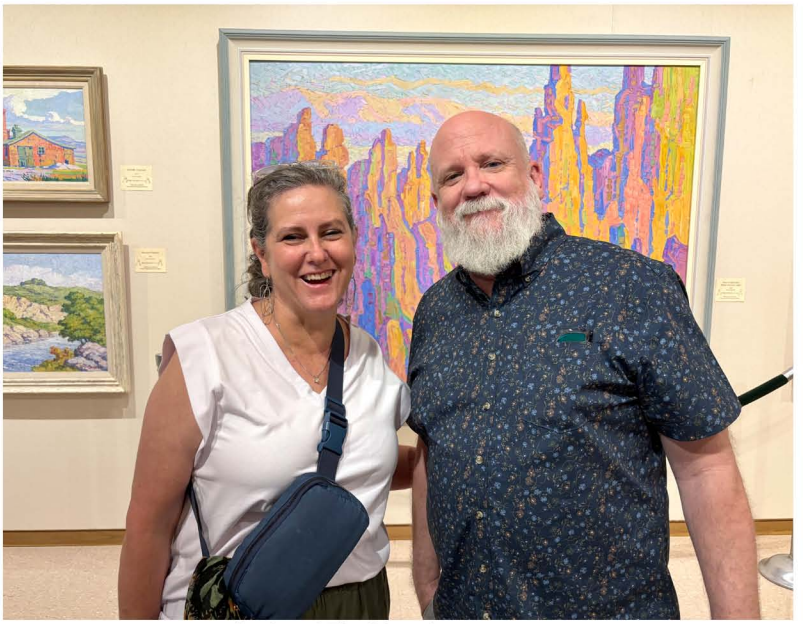
Karin Sanderson-Swanson with daughter Leila Watson



Ruth and Kelly Spurgeon

Susan MacNally with Kris Hermanson (Joel Sanderson's wife)

Family portrait with Bette Sue & John Wachholz, Charla Sanderson, Priscilla Roby, Lynette Roby-Ledbetter, Karin Sanderson-Swanson, Leila Watson, Joel Sanderson, and Kris Hermanson



Lori and Tim Manning

Charla Sanderson and Tara Seeley

Kris Hermanson, John Wachholz, Joel Sanderson, Karin Sanderson-Swanson, Leila Watson, Charla Sanderson, Priscilla Roby, Lynette Roby Ledbetter, and Bette Sue Wachholz

Bert and Valerie Hamlin with Charla

Post exhibit opening dinner in Salina

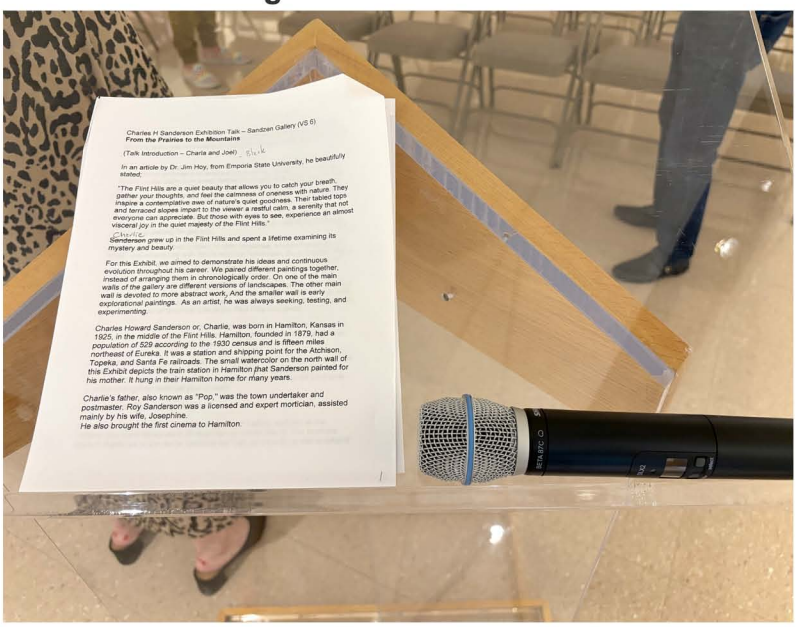
"Confusedness"
Acrylic, 1989

Exhibit Opening Gallery Talk

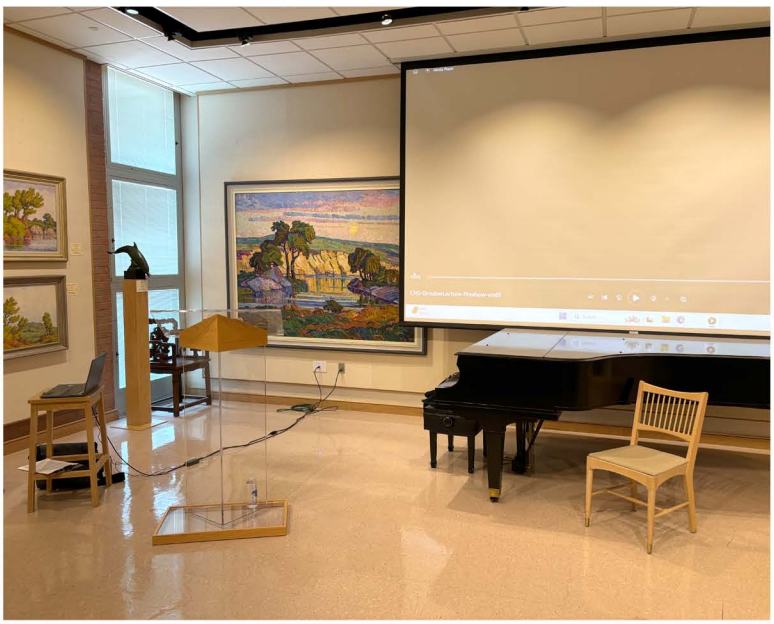
Head gallery curator Ron Michael introducing Charla Sanderson

Frontier Heights”
Wichita Art Museum Collection
Acrylic, 1984

Exhibit Closing Lecture



Lecture script



Preshow lecture setup

Post lecture

"Untitled"
Salina Arts Center Collection
Acrylic, 1990

Charles H Sanderson Exhibition Talk – Sandzen Gallery
From the Prairies to the Mountains

(Talk Introduction – Charla and Joel)

The Flint Hills are a quiet beauty that allows you to catch your breath, gather your thoughts, and feel the calmness of oneness with nature. They inspire a contemplative awe of nature's quiet goodness. Their tabled tops and terraced slopes impart to the viewer a restful calm, a serenity that not everyone can appreciate. But those with eyes to see experience an almost visceral joy in the quiet majesty of the Flint Hills.

In an article by Dr. Jim Hoy, Emporia State University, he said.
"Charles Howard Sanderson was born in 1925 in Hamilton, Kansas, in the middle of the Flint Hills. Hamilton, founded in 1879, had a population of 529 in the 1930 census and was fifteen miles northeast of Eureka. It was a station and shipping point for the Aitchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe railroads." The small watercolor on the north wall of this Exhibit depicts the train station in Hamilton that Sanderson painted for his mother, and it hung in their Hamilton home for many years.

For this Exhibit, we aimed to demonstrate his ideas and continuous evolution throughout his career by pairing works instead of arranging them chronologically. As an artist, he was always seeking, testing, and experimenting.

Charles Sanderson's father, also known as "Pop," was the town undertaker and postmaster. Roy Sanderson was a licensed and expert mortician, assisted mainly by his wife, Josephine. Every case submitted to them receives the excellence of professional service that has accorded him a high place in this regard. He also brought the first cinema to Hamilton. This photograph depicts the new Sanderson Funeral Home, which is a rare establishment for a small town. After its construction, the Sanderson family's home was featured in the local newspaper. It read as follows: The house is a large residence with the interior re-arranged to suit the convenience of those who desire a more private service. The two large rooms on the north form a well-furnished chapel, while the wide veranda offers ample additional room when necessary. In the south part of the home was a neat and convenient preparation room where the equipment and other necessities were located for the proper care and preparation of the client, thus affording that isolation and seclusion.

Charlie and his brothers grew up in this house. It was across the highway from the town's main street with a large circular drive providing access and parking for patrons. During childhood, Charlie loved to draw airplanes, scenes from the Old West, and adventures with 1930s science fiction icon Buck Rogers. We've heard interesting stories about how he and his brothers used to play in coffins and were often asked to help outside the funeral home.

They also loved taking their bikes to the top of a hill outside of town and riding down as fast as they could to be launched off a ledge and dive bike into a pond. Later, they would devise methods to pull the bikes out of the mud. Life in the Flint Hills was good. Roy passed away in 1955, but he and his wife Josephine supported their artistic son. Years later, his mother sent him a note on his 47th birthday, which read;

"Congratulations to you, Charles, and wife Ruth. You have spent many late hours with brush and paint. You have reached the Beginning of your artwork. So, with your talents and the late hours, may the good Lord give you the strength to continue your chosen life work.
Love Always, Mother Josephine"

Charlie and his two older brothers, Dallas and LeRoy, enlisted in the military and were stationed in Europe during World War II. The brothers weren't deployed to the same battalions but met once for a weekend in Paris. Sanderson was stationed with Battery B, 258th Field Artillery Observation Battalion. He served as an artillery spotter during the Battle of the Bulge, when German forces tried to break through the American lines to turn the tide of the war.

Sanderson's field unit was positioned in a house between the American and German lines to observe German artillery cannons. After their position was discovered, German artillery started shelling the house. Sanderson's unit received orders to retreat to safety. Still, instead, he and his fellow soldiers moved to the back of the house. They held their position despite heavy shelling and losing one of their men. They called in the coordinates of the German artillery positions, which were then silenced.

He was awarded the Bronze Star for "heroic and loyal devotion to duty in the face of great personal danger." His bronze star is in one of the display cases in the gallery. Amazingly, all three brothers survived the war and returned to Kansas.

That background gives you an idea of what influenced our Dad and where he came from, which helped create who he was. He went to Kansas State University to study architecture. After returning from the war, he decided he wanted to design cities. It wasn't long before he realized that architects spent as much time bidding for jobs as they did designing buildings. "After the destruction of war, I just wanted to create things, so I decided to study art."

He then went on to earn a B.A. in art education at Emporia State in 1951. After graduation, he taught in Altoona, Kansas, and became an art instructor and freshman basketball coach in Lyons. He met our mother, Ruth, who was a grade school teacher. They got married in 1952. He sold his first painting for one dollar while living in Lyons. "And the woman who bought it didn't want it because she liked it," he said with a laugh. "She wanted it because it was the right size to cover up a hole in her wall."

Then, in 1954, he accepted a position in El Dorado as an art instructor in the High School, Junior High, and Junior College. During the five years in El Dorado, he worked toward and received his Master's Degree in art education from Fort Hayes State College.

With the opening of South High School in 1959, they moved to Wichita, where Charlie started as the first art Instructor for the new school. He began seriously painting watercolors after my brother and I were born. He started painting in oils, but after catching me eating the oil paints, watercolor became his medium of choice.

He liked the spontaneity, excitement, and versatility of working with watercolor paints. This medium allowed him to work through his ideas quickly. At the same time, they were fresh, working mainly from observation and impressions, rarely from sketches. Early in his work, you can see the influence of artists such as John Marin, Jackson Pollack, and Dong Kingman. In an early artist statement from 1960, he stated,

"I want my paintings to be an honest statement of my feelings for a subject while I paint it. My subject matter is usually landscape or cityscape. These two interests give me so many ideas to explore that it sometimes frustrates me. Design, color, and techniques are the tools I use most to interpret my subject. Often, people ask me to paint something like my previous work. I couldn't if I tried. I just don't have the same feeling for it. When I finish a painting, I am done with it; I'm ready to move on to something new."

As a teacher, he became known for his skill at encouraging the promising and the unpromising alike to enjoy art. "My goal was just to get them to try it – even the kids who took art only because they had to." He was always willing to work with anyone interested in art.

He attended The first art fair in Wichita in the early 1960s, held on the Wichita Court House lawn. His paintings were displayed on a clothesline with small watercolors pinned using clothespins. About halfway through the first day, he went to find a payphone to call my Mom. "Ruthie," he said, "Bring more paintings. We're almost sold out!" He had priced the paintings at $1 and $2 and, by the end of the day, had made $200. They were rich, he thought, and we got to go out to Dairy Queen for Ice Cream bars, and we thought – This is the life!

Around 1966, the students in his South High art class borrowed the family 8mm film camera. They began shooting a comedy movie titled "Smelly Tennis Shoes and Road Graders." At this

time, the actor Don Johnson, who was then a teenager in Kansas, was a student in Sanderson's art class and appeared in some of the skits in the film.

There's a scene featuring "Super Sanderson." In this segment from the film, Super Sanderson sits at his desk in the South High Arts room when he receives a note asking for help. He then stands up, revealing that he's wearing an apron, which he throws behind him like a cape, takes off his glasses, and springs into action. However, instead of leaving the room, he runs right into the wall because he can't see without his glasses. The cape, resembling an apron, was crafted by Ruth Sanderson and is showcased in a glass case. Here is the excerpt from the 8mm movie the students made:

The art rooms at South High School in Wichita were located in the Fine Arts wing of the school. There were three large art rooms and spacious rooms for music and drama classes down the hallway. Sanderson's art room was well-equipped to offer the students many opportunities to experiment with as many mediums and processes as possible. An introductory program was very flexible to accommodate different student's needs. The course focused on teaching the fundamental skills needed for drawing and design. He encouraged students to work with abstract, realistic, and non-objective work, stressing simplifying ideas and forms. Classes offered Drawing and Painting, Ceramics and Sculpture, Silversmithing, enameling, and Printmaking.

South High also offered a stagecraft class in conjunction with the drama department. Students learned to design, construct, and paint stage sets for the school's productions during the year. One of the most memorable productions was "West Side Story." Sanderson created an 18' x 40' cityscape backdrop painting with his students' assistance. He worked on many productions with the students, using what was handy to paint on a larger scale, from mops to incorporating local city billboard prints.

When I returned to Wichita after accepting the position of Theater Director at the Wichita Center for the Arts, I designed sets and costumes. I enlisted my Dad's help on a few backdrops, and collaborating was a great experience.

To keep his work in painting fresh, Sanderson experimented with the medium, using different techniques to reinvent his work. Beginning early in his career as a painter, he used known methods such as salt and Windex to achieve unusual textures. He nearly always traveled with a sketchbook, jotting down thumbnail sketches of structures or landscapes.

Photography also became a reference for paintings; he took countless photos of cities, the Kansas plains, and buildings, including pueblos in Taos, Wichita, and any large city visited. These photos were used directly, partially, or sometimes distorted for an interesting look. In the late 1980s, images from his dreams began to be incorporated, with the point-of-view displaying flight or elements of his daily life seen in fragments incorporated into works.

He frequently used a painting scheme using circles: "I'd always been interested in design, and I began looking for a way to apply it to my landscapes. And then, one night, I came up with it. "The circle. The moon, the sun. The earth, the wheel, movement, the circle. I began using this design in my landscapes, entered one in a national watercolor show, and won a prize. I want people to use their imaginations to study my paintings instead of just looking at them.

In the 1980s, he switched to acrylic paintings. He used modeling compounds to build reliefs and various masking systems to create content separations. He began using cut-out pieces to add to the dimensionality of the works. He incorporated perspective experiments to add depth or change the angle of the viewer's experience.

During a family gathering, we discussed new ways to present his paintings. One suggestion was to cut two unused paintings into one-inch slices and then weave the pieces back together to see how the results might look. After completing the first weaving experiment, it was set aside for further review. He included the new woven painting because more pieces were needed for an upcoming group exhibit. This painting received the award as the best in the

show. With this encouragement, Sanderson continued using the concept of woven paintings for many years, including different paper types and approaches.

Ruth Sanderson played an integral role in the family art business, including preparing the exhibits, pricing, and titling the paintings. "I see his work sell more than he does, so I can tell about what people will give for his work." She didn't discuss pricing with Charlie. "All she tells me is that I've got to paint more. She comes down the stairs to his studio basement and says, "Paint wheat!" She also played an essential role in documenting and cataloging the artworks and slides, collecting newspaper articles, and managing the paperwork from a lifetime of painting, which has been instrumental in keeping their art business on track.

The Sanderson's were patrons of the arts. They encouraged and promoted other artists, nurturing talent and helping to introduce it to others. They were big supporters of the arts in Wichita and Kansas. Ruth served as an "Art Scout" for the Wichita Art Museum's Sales and rental gallery and as Executive secretary and fundraiser for the Kansas Watercolor Society. Charlie was the co-founder and President of the Kansas Watercolor Society for many years and developed their annual Exhibit to include not only Kansas but five surrounding States.

Realizing that artists had few places to exhibit their work in Wichita in the 1970s, the Sanderson was part of a movement that brought Group II Shows to Wichita. Using the foyer of Century II, they hung the latest and sometimes controversial works of local and regional art and set the town talking. Their commitment to the State and Wichita's cultural and artistic progress was outstanding, and they received the Wichita Arts Council distinguished Recognition in the Arts Award in 1987.

Art fairs sales supplemented the family's income. It allowed us to travel the country, which would either turn a profit or, hopefully, break even. Sanderson had artworks in several galleries, and art fairs proved a way for me to meet people. He loved talking to people who were interested in his work. As younger kids, most of the art fair schedule was done during the summer months since teachers have three months off during Summer. Our summer vacation destinations were scheduled around available art fairs. We traveled, first in a van pulling a camper and later in a medium-sized motorhome. Part of going to art fairs became like visiting an art family, as my parents were friends with so many people.

Kalispell and Big Fork, Montana, were often our summer hangouts. Most summers, we traveled to Montana, where one of my uncles worked in real estate, and we all loved it up there. The landscape around there started appearing in Dad's paintings. The mountains, colors, pine trees, and lakes appeared and showed the transition that happened on the summer drive from the plains to the mountains.

He loved to barter and trade paintings with other artists and anyone he had an interesting conversation with. One of these trades was for a ride in a small prop plane, which flew over the farmlands around Wichita. This plane ride changed his perspective on painting landscapes. His point of view changed from the horizon to the graphic quality of looking at the landscape from above. This experience allowed him to begin breaking away from previous works to create more realistic landscape paintings.

He was well known in the Salina area for always being at the Smoky Hills River Festival. Our Uncle and Aunt John and Bette Sue Wachholz commissioned a tree planted in the park in 1995, where the festival takes place in Salina. The tree is now fully grown and provides shade for artists attending. Charlie and Ruth did that art fair for many years, and he had a favorite spot that he always got, right under a tree, so no matter how hot it got, he had shade. They loved going to art fairs around the country to show their art. They enjoyed contact with other artists and meeting the people who bought his paintings.

In 1988, Charlie received the Governor's Arts Award from the Kansas Arts Commission. Mike Hayden was Governor then, and the awards ceremony occurred at the State Capitol. Sanderson was also asked to create a display of his works and provide a painting that would be reproduced for the award catalog. That painting is in the Exhibit, was purchased by the

Wichita Art Museum, and is on loan from their collection. Posters were also created using that painting to announce the recipients to the state.

He was invited to exhibit multiple times in Europe. Along with another artist from the Midwest, he was selected by La Galerie Monte Carlo in Belgium as one of two artists. In 1972, forty of his paintings were displayed at the gallery and received acclaim from the region's art critics.

In 1976, he participated in a juried exhibit titled Americans in Paris. A Paris jury selected the artists in conjunction with the International Center of Paris opening. The jury wanted to provide exposure to artists from America in France.

Ascension Lutheran Church in West Wichita underwent a significant building expansion in the late 1970s. They approached Charlie to design stained glass windows for the sanctuary and chapel. He created ten individual windows surrounding the sanctuary made of faceted glass. This type of glass is several inches thick and bonded with seams using an epoxy medium, providing aesthetic appeal and durability to the finished product.

Each window corresponds to a selected Bible verse. All the windows are done in earth tones at the bottom and sky tones in the upper half to suggest an upward movement. The windows reflect Creation, Nativity, Ministry, the Crucifixion, Pentecost, The Mission, The Word, and The Sacraments. The main window shows the empty cross rising from the fields of Kansas against our ever-changing Kansas skies.

For over 35 years, he maintained a complete painting and art instruction schedule, spearheading experimentation and development in various styles and techniques. This artistic vision made him one of Kansas's most respected artists. He was the founder and president of the Kansas Watercolor Society. He held over one hundred and fifty one-person exhibits. His work has been displayed in numerous national, regional, and local juried exhibitions. His

paintings are featured in permanent collections at museums, libraries, colleges, corporations, and private collections worldwide.

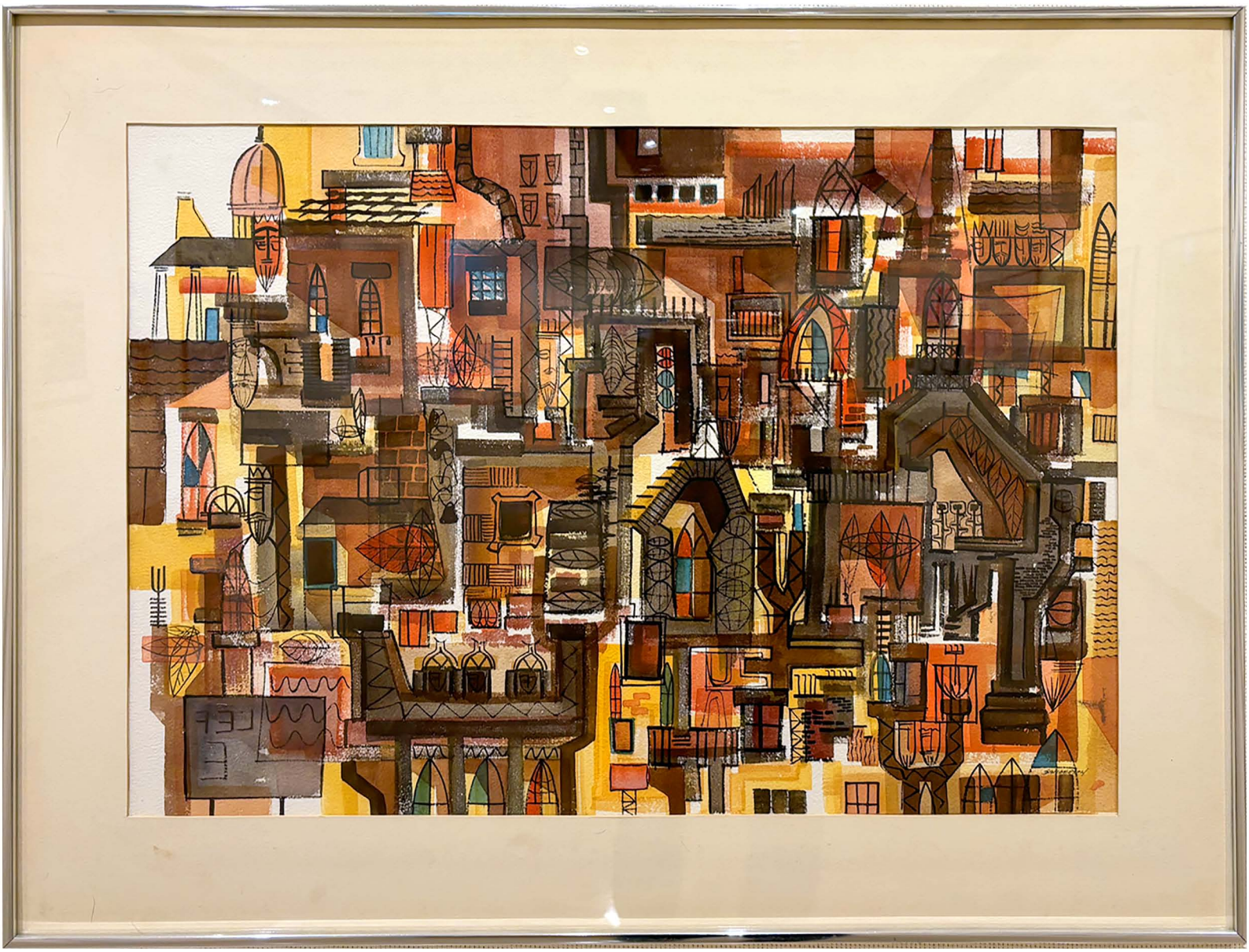
Charlie: "Often, an artist will get discouraged and say, I'm going to leave Wichita." "In any community – I don't care where it is – you can find great people interested in the arts and willing to help artists whose work they admire. These are the true patrons, and they're in every community. It's an artist's job to find those people, to get out there and show them what you can do. It's just like any other field. What you put into it depends on what you'll get out of it."

In the exhibit display cases, you will find more personal things about our Dad, including newspaper articles from Hamilton, his bronze star from World War II, and teaching-related things. As an art teacher, he had to master ceramics, woodworking, metalwork, and printmaking; you can also see examples.

We want to thank the Art of Emprise, Wichita Art Museum, Kansas Oil Museum, Salina Arts Center, and the Sandzen Gallery for generously providing work for this Exhibit.

I hope this provides insight into our Dad and his work.

(More info and wrap-up that ties the beginning of the lecture with the Flint Hills and observation.)



"Faces and Windows"
Watercolor, 1966

Charles H. Sanderson

Retrospective 2024
Exhibit Documentation

Additional Media

"Hamilton Train Station"
Watercolor, 1959

Trinocular"
Acryic, 1975

To Keep Abreast Of The Times
The business man must advertise, and no advertising is so effective as that done through the columns of the local paper.

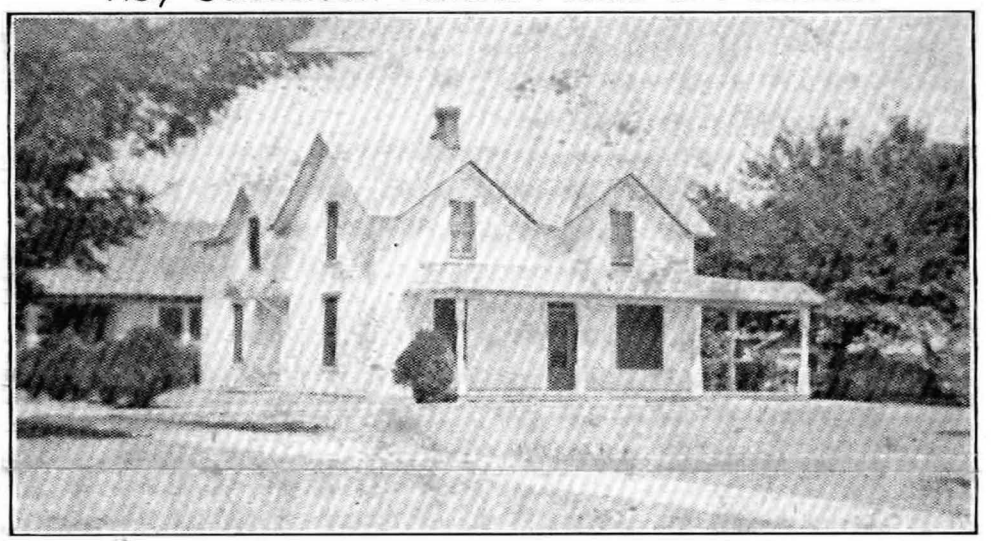
HAMILTON GRIT.

One Country
One Flag
Liberty and
Justice for all

VOL. XXIV HAMILTON, KANSAS, THURSDAY AUGUST 24, 1933 No. 34

THE ONLY PAPER PRINTED AND PUBLISHED IN HAMILTON. THE POPULAR PAPER 27 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THIS COMMUNITY

Roy Sanderson Funeral Home at Hamilton



The above photograph of the new Sanderson funeral home shows an institution that few small towns can boast.

The home is a large residence with the interior re-arranged to suit the convenience of those who desire a more private service.

The two large rooms on the north are thrown together, forming a well furnished chapel while the wide veranda offers ample additional room when necessary.

A small well appointed room on the south, opening off the chapel, affords privacy for the family and relatives of the deceased.

In the south part of the building is a neat and convenient preparation room where the equipment and other necessaries are located for the proper care and preparation of the client thus affording that isolation and seclusion so agreeable to the bereaved relatives.

Mr. Sanderson is a licensed and expert mortician, most ably assisted by his wife and every case submitted to them, receives that excellence of professional service which has accorded him a high place in the regard of those men and women who have devoted their life to the tender ministration of those dear ones of whom it is said: "God's finger touched them and they fell asleep."

Photo of the townspeople of Hamilton, Kansas, standing in front of the Hamilton bank, gathered for a portrait. Copies were made and sent to every resident who was then serving in the military during World War II. Front row (left): Mrs. Roy Sanderson, Shirley Sanderson, Roy Sanderson.

Special To The Gazette:

Hamilton, May 23 — The eighth grade commencement exercises were held at the high school auditorium Thursday night. Rev. Robert Brown gave the invocation, and the girls' double quartet sang. Charles Howard Sanderson played a trumpet solo. The address was made by W. C. Kampshroeder, superintendent of Eureka schools.

The class members are: Ella Tannahill, Maynard Mitchell, Fern Dawson, Charles Howard Sanderson, Louisa Saniter, Walter Schwintz, Edith Brothers, Freddy Hoover, Alice Carson, Robert Hawkins, Nancy Jo Wedelin, Melba Schwintz, Ruth Merrick, Kenneth Muse.

Hamilton Enters 30 in Contest

Special to The Gazette

Hamilton, April 25—Hamilton will enter 30 students in the State Scholarship contest at Emporia Saturday. Those who will make the trip and the subjects in which they will contest are: Nadine Barb, American history and history and social science team; Kenneth Bonczkowski, current history, and history and social science team; Grace Marie Cannon, psychology; Mary June Easterling, psychology; Elma May Johnson, spelling 4, agriculture, spelling team; George Reid, bookkeeping; Wayne Sloan, commercial law and commercial team; Dale Wallace, algebra 3, bookkeeping, commerce team, mathematics team; NeVerl Wheeler, current history; Betty Williams, American history; Bonnie Brown, English 2; Paul Cartright, American government; Doris Cassel, economics; Geraldine Fryback, physiology; Maxine Fryback, physiology; Eloise Meador, sociology, economics, French 2, commerce team, history and social science team; Clarence Randolph, agriculture; Leslie Underwood, English 11, spelling 4, commerce team, spelling team; Mildred Bell, clothing; Ruby Carlisle, spelling 3, foods, spelling team; Charles Easterling, English 10, plane geometry; Leonard Fluharty, plane geometry, mathematics team; Catherine Anderson, clothing; Teddy Bernard, general science, spelling 3, mechanical drawing, spelling team; Alice Carson, algebra 1, foods, mathematics team; Maynard Mitchell, English 9, industrial arts; Jack Ratcliff, modern school mathematics, bookkeeping 3, mechanical drawing, mathematics team; Charles Sanderson, industrial arts; Nancy Jo Wedelin, clothing.

Coach Meats took four of his track boys to Lawrence Friday and Saturday, where they entered the K. U. Relays. The boys placed second in their heat of the medley relay. Students who made the trip are: Dale Wallace, Charles Covert, Billy DeBruler and Harry Sherman.

The entire track team will enter the county meet at Eureka Monday night. Hamilton has won this meet four times in the last five years.

CITATION, BRONZE STAR MEDAL

Private Charles H. Sanderson, 37528756, Battery B, 288th Field Artillery Observation Battalion, United States Army, distinguished himself by heroic achievement in connection with military operations against an enemy of the Unted States in Germany on 9 March 1945. Private Sanderson, a sound outpost operator for a sound ranging base, displayed tenacity and determination in remaining at his post when enemy artillery scored hits on the house in which he was stationed. Even when ordered to retire to a safe position, he merely moved to the rear of the house and continued operating his outpost despite the accurate enemy shelling. Through Private Sanderson's heroic and loyal devotion to duty in the face of great personal danger, the enemy artillery was accurately located and subsequently silenced.

C-I-T-A-T-I-O-N

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

Private CHARLES H. SANDERSON, 37528756, Battery B, 288th Field Artillery Observation Battalion, United States Army, distinguished himself by heroic achievement in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States in Germany on 9 March 1945. Private SANDERSON, a sound outpost operator for a sound ranging base, displayed tenacity and determination in remaining at his post when enemy artillery scored hits on the house in which he was stationed. Even when ordered to retire to a safe position, he merely moved to the rear of the house and continued operating his outpost despite the accurate enemy shelling. Through Private SANDERSON's heroic and loyal devotion to duty in the face of great personal danger, the enemy artillery was accurately located and subsequently silenced.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

TO ALL WHO SHALL SEE THESE PRESENTS, GREETING:

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT
THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AUTHORIZED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER, FEBRUARY 4, 1944
HAS AWARDED

THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL

TO

Private Charles H. Sanderson, A.S.N., 37528756

FOR

HEROISM IN GROUND COMBAT

Germany, 9 March 1945

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND IN THE CITY OF WASHINGTON
THIS 29th DAY OF September 1949

MAJOR GENERAL
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

SECRETARY OF WAR

WEATHER
Colder Sunday

THE EMPORIA GAZETTE

VOLUME LXI NUMBER 101 EMPORIA, KANSAS, SATURDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 25, 1950 EIGHT PAGES Single Copy—Five Cents

E-State Students to Show Original Art Work at Topeka Fair

Fifty-three art students from Emporia State college will submit original creations to the Kansas Free fair at Topeka this year. Contributions will include water colors, oil paintings, drawings, graphics, pottery, jewelry, weaving, and design.

Last year, the Emporia State group was awarded first prize in the college and university class for oils and graphic arts, and a second prize for design and craft.

Students contributing water colors are Joan Brockelman, Jack Homan, Ralph Summers, Winifred Ruth, Jinx Wright, John Dillon, Beulah Beyer, Fred Williamson, Kenneth Green and Charles Schroeder.

Drawings will be submitted by Joe Solis, Reuben Willis, Bill Wunsch, Leigh Groendycke, Joyce Hoffman Manners, Bud Van Sickle, and Ilene Trussler. Eugene Lantz and Hattie Waddell are among the entrants in the graphic arts competition, and Clara Petefish. will contribute weaving.

Designers included are Eleanor Simmons, Carol Schlesener, Pat Bird, Mrs. Walter Johnson, Helen Snavely, Beverly McNulty, Barbara Kitts and Helen Graves.

Oil paintings by Robert Klintworth, J. Warren Brinkman and Charles Sanderson will be included in the exhibition. Pottery makers are Bob Gillman, Joyce Sheridan, Mary Ann Grundmeier, Ruby Waldorf, Margaret Goodenow, Inez Ward, Eileen Schmidt and Ethel Hooper.

Jewelry was designed by Carol Baltz, Margaret English, Betty Hebert, Jack South, Doris Anderson, Muriel Hill, Virginia Tarr, Ruth McKee, Elfie Abeldt, Kathleen Clark, Arlon Bryson, Ethel Price, Elizabeth Jaquith, and Ruth Larson.

Sanderson's Art On Exhibit As One-Man Show Opens

Nineteen pieces of work by Charles Sanderson, B. S. in Ed., 1951, are being featured in a one-man art show now on exhibit in the art department corridors.

His show includes water colors, wood block prints, stencils, lithographs, etchings, monotypes, and oil paintings.

Sanderson, who graduated at midterm, is now teaching at Altoona and next fall will be instructor in art at Lyons High School.

Sanderson's work will be on exhibit until Wednesday.

Ceramics on Display In E-State Gallery

On display in the Emporia State art gallery now is a showing of ceramics, all the work of Emporia State students. In addition, projects completed by members of the elementary crafts class are being displayed with the ceramics.

The ceramic showing was produced in a new electric kiln recently acquired by the college art department. Although capable of reaching a temperature of 2,200 degrees, the kiln has not yet been fired above 1,950 degrees.

The ceramic work being shown was produced from Kansas clay and Kansas glazing materials. The students who have projects in the display are Charles Sanderson, Jack Mathews, Lois Garvie, Gloria Redfield, Carl Love, Osborn Shearer, Ted Loney, Ted Lamb, and Hattie Waddell, all E-State students.

Members of the elementary crafts class who have work on display are Charlene Taylor, Mary Ann Grunderson, Ed Dunn, June Adam, Beulah Beyer, Katherine Gleichman, Olive Kipfer, and Joan Brockelman.

"HERE TODAY AND GONE TO LUNCH," a melodrama put on by members of the Phi Delta Chi fraternity, reaches a highly emotional scene and members of the cast respond accordingly. The play was written, produced and directed by Dennis Denning, a senior at Emporia State college from Russell, and has been given recently throughout the eastern part of the state. An original Gay Nineties melodrama, the play is complete with villain and hero and is sparked with contemporary music selections with rewritten lyrics. The cast (left to right) is composed of Dennis Denning, Charles Sanderson, of Hamilton; Robert Haggard, of Concordia; Ned Hoover, of Cottonwood Falls, and Jerry Bergett, Hutchinson. (Photo by Kenneth Koch, Gazette engraving)

Fraternity Boys Entertain Students

A farmer, the farmer's daughter and the villian were all portrayed by members of Phi Delta Chi fraternity in the skit, "Here Today and Gone to Lunch," presented Friday morning in an assembly attended by Roosevelt high school students. Members of the cast were Jerry Burgett, Dennis Denning, Charles Sanderson, Robert Haggard and Ned Hoover.

Roosevelt high students and their teachers attended a square dance party Saturday evening at the Laboratory school gym. Phyllis Ann Esch, Emporia State college freshman, was the caller. Non-dancers played checkers, chess and canasta. Refreshments were served by Gladys Smith, chairman of the party committee, and by Miss Della Warden, faculty sponsor. Charles Clark and Lester Duckett set up the public address system over which recording music was played.

Art Students from E-State Win First Prize at Free Fair

Art students representing Emporia State college have been awarded first prize in the college and university class for oils and graphic arts at the Kansas Free fair in Topeka. Results of the judging were announced Sunday by fair officials.

A second prize in the college and university class for design and craft was also awarded to the Emporia State group. Twenty-six students from the college had work entered in the group competition at the fair exhibit.

Ranking behind Emporia State in the oils and graphic arts class were the exhibits by the Universtiy of Kansas, second place, and by Washburn university, third place. In the design and craft class, the University of Kansas group won first place, and Kansas State college was awarded third place.

Ceramics, jewelry, weaving and other miscellaneous crafts are included in the annual Emporia State exhibit at the fair. In addition to the craft displays of Miss Mary Kretsinger's students, work in oils, water color and graphic arts by students of Norman Eppink, art department head, are displayed again this year.

Students contributing oil paintings include: George Crocker, Herman Rowan, Gloria Hedfield, Hattie Waddell, J. Warren Brinkman and Don Staten. Water color exhibitors are: Barbara Riddle, Jack South, Charles Sanderson, Kenneth Green, Peter Pedaris,

Ceramists contributing are Kenneth Green, Fred Williamson, Robert Klintworth, Alta Schroll, Eugene Lantz, Charles Sanderson, Jack South, Ted Lamb, Carl Love, Jack Mathews, Gloria Redfield and Hattie Waddell.

Silver work includes groups by Beulah Beyer, Kenneth Green, Charles Sanderson, Carl Love, Jack Mathews, Ted Lamb, Hattie Waddell and Winifred Drake.

Weaving, leather work and chip carving include work by Jack Mathews, Barbara Riddle, Winifred Drake, Hattie Waddell, Ralph Summers, Beulah Beyer, Louise Worrell and Gloria Redfield.

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Fifty-four to Receive Degrees This Month

Nineteen Emporians Are On E-State List for Completion of Work

Nineteen Emporians are among the 54 Emporia State students who have applied for degrees at the end of the fall semester, January 22. The Bachelor of Science in Education is the most sought degree with 33 students applying for it. Sixteen have applied for a B. S. in Commerce, three for a B. S. in Music, and two applied for an A. B. degree.

Only six of the students are from out of state, which is something unusual for graduation classes at Emporia State. Hawaii, Alabama, Alaska, and Oklahoma each has one student in the class, and New Jersey has two. Although no formal graduation ceremonies will be held this winter, the graduates are eligible to take part in the graduation exercises at the end of the spring semester.

The other towns represented and their representatives are as follows:

Emporia — James Clark Bump, Howard Lloyd Carnine, Rosalea Vianna Freeman, Iyla Lorene Gay, Ralph John Haag, Norton Lloyd Hartsook, Mary Francis Jeppesen, Darrell Frank Kellams, John Seleman McDaniel, Mary Miles Peckham, Leona Mae Pine Snyder, Robert Marion Plummer, William Keller Reeble, Arlene Rosetta Shomber Shaw, Robert D. Stout, R. G. Swensen, Edwin Randall Tolle, Reuben Eugene Willis, Richard Warren Wright.

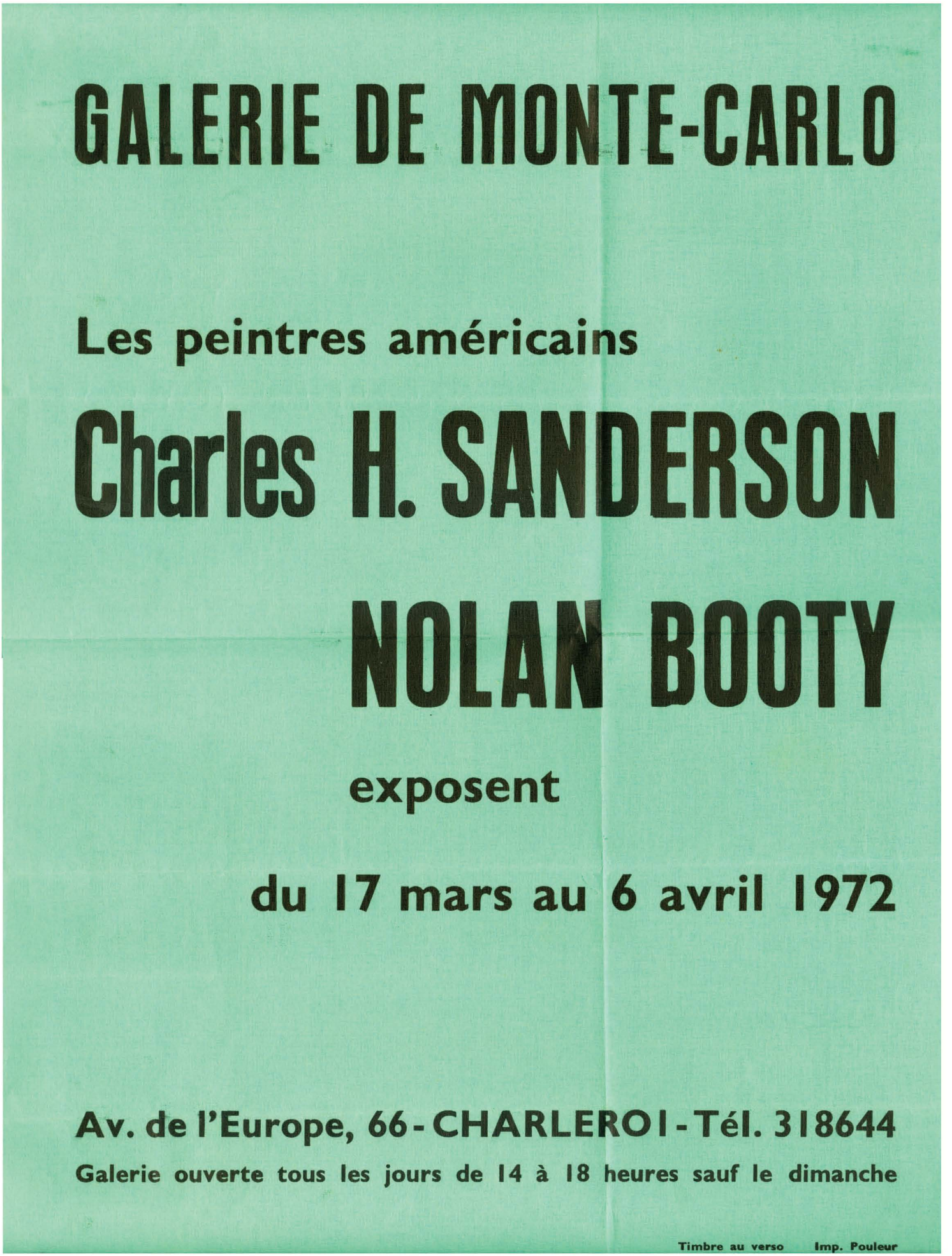
Reading — John Lawrence Bulkley, Jr., Ellen Elizabeth McDonald Gaughan.

Marion—Rosse Braddock Case.

Virgil — Bobbie Davis Commens.

Lebo—Charlotte Irene King.

Eureka—Wilbur Eugene Mitchell; Fredonia—William Demoe Kolph; Hamilton, Charles Howard Sanderson; Williamsburg, Marilyn



Poster for Sanderson's European exhibit in Charleroi, Belgium

The Forecast
KANSAS—Partly cloudy. Chance of thundershowers today. High today mid 80s.
OKLAHOMA — Scattered showers, thunderstorms. Highs 80s north, 90s elsewhere.
Map, Table on Page 4C

The Wichita Eagle

Vol. 97, No. 201 — 36 Pages — 4 Parts — ★ — WICHITA, KANSAS 67201, MONDAY, JULY 21, 1969 — Price 10 Cents

SCHOLARSHIP ARTISTS — Taking a studied look at Swedish craft work in the junior museum at the Wichita Art Association are three scholarship winners and their instructor, Charles Sanderson, Wichita artist. Winners from elementary schools are, from left, Robert Johnston, 11, of 354 Wabash; Chrissie Wehde, 11, of 256 N. Pinecrest, and Don McCurry, 10, of 2330 Rosenthal.—(Staff Photo.)

Displays at Three Galleries

Hundreds Visit Local Art Exhibits

Sunday was a day for the arts in Wichita, as hundreds of visitors were reported at three exhibits in the city.

An exhibit of paintings by the Attica Artists Guild was held 1-5 p. m. at the Great Plains Gallery, 321 E. Douglas. The exhibit of 15 paintings is primarily of oils.

STILL LIFE and landscape paintings are included in the exhibit, which will continue through March. Visitors were both Wichitans and out-of-town guests, gallery officials said.

The regular gallery schedule is from 12-5 p. m. Tuesday and Thursday and 10-5 p. m. Saturday.

A special feature of the 10th annual Kansas Artists exhibit at the Wichita Art Museum, 619 Stackman Drive, has been its exhibit commemorating the past nine exhibition purchases.

BEST PURCHASES in the previous years of the KAA exhibit have been selected by curator Sebastian Adler and displayed in one section of the exhibit.

The annual exhibit is the only all-Kansas show and each year purchase awards are made for the permament museum collection.

INCLUDED IN the exhibit are paintings in oil, two collages, a welded steel sculpture by John Alberty, a wood sculpture and an intaglio. One of the first purchases — "Blue Landscape," an oil by Jean Thompson purchased in 1954—is included.

The 10th Kansas Artist Annual opened Feb. 28 and will run through March 29 at the museum.

Also reporting good crowds was the Wichita Art Association, 401 N. Belmont, which is featuring work by two Wichita artists.

Water paintings by Robert Aitchison, a retired McCormick-Armstrong employe, and oils by Charles Sanderson, South High School art instructor, are on display until March 18.

Sanderson Work To Be Displayed

A collection of 40 pen and ink sketches and water colors by Charles Sanderson, well-known young Kansas artist and former instructor in art in the El Dorado schools, will be exhibited at the Butler County Historical society's museum, Central and Star, next Saturday and Sunday. There is no admission fee.

The collection was commissioned by the Butler County Centennial committee for exhibition throughout Kansas during centennial year. Kansas landscapes and views of historic Kansas landmarks comprise the bulk of the collection.

The local centennial group made the Sanderson collection available to any organization wishing to exhibit it, without any charge other than the cost of shipping the collection one way. Committee officials report that the works were exhibited in every corner of the state, principally by women's clubs, study groups, libraries and museums, and were in almost constant demand throughout the year. The collection has not been previously exhibited in El Dorado.

Sanderson is Kansas-born and wholly Kansas-trained, and is considered by authoritative sources to have a special affinity for the Kansas scene. He holds a master's degree from Kansas State Teachers college at Hays, and has taken additional work at Kansas State Teachers college in Emporia and at the University of Wichita.

He has been on the teaching staff of the public schools of Lyons and of El Dorado, and is presently art instructor at Wichita High School South.

He has had one-man shows in Lyons, Haven, El Dorado, Hutchinson, Winfield, Hays, and Wichita, and is currently having a one-man show in the Campus Activities center on the University of Wichita campus.

Exhibitions and prizes include, among others, purchase prizes in 1956 and in 1960 at the Air Capital show in Wichita, at the Sioux City, Iowa Watercolor show, the Kansas Painters show in Pittsburg, the Young Painters show, Manhattan, the Mid-America Annual exhibition, Kansas City, Mo., the Springfield, Mo. Annual Exhibition, the Oklahoma City, Okla. Annual Watercolor show, the Motorola Regional show in Wichita, Design Magazine National Cover competition, the Kansas Designers and Craftsmen show in Lawrence, the Topeka Artists Guild, the Living With Art show, Wichita, and the Prairie Watercolor society. During his El Dorado tenure, his works were used as the center of interest in the El Dorado garden club's "Springscape" flower show.

Saturday hours will be from 1 until 5 and from 7 until 9. Sunday hours will be from 1 until 5.

JACK PHARO, ceramics instructor, will show several cases and shelves of functional and decorative pottery ranging from an 8-bowl chili set to garden-pool or patio small animal sculptures. Pharo uses native Kansas clays and wood-ash glazes for much of his work. Colorful glazes result from reduction methods requiring high temperatures and long periods of firing.

Rama Webb's bowls, rings, boxes and other pieces involve both silversmithing and enameling which she teaches. Among her pieces on display is a pendant or bracelet charm with amethyst set which she designed for the Women's Trans-Mississippi Golf Association Tournament to be used as a championship award and which was won by Judy Bell of Wichita.

An exhibition of work created during the past year by six faculty members of the School of the Wichita Art Association, 401 N. Belmont, will open today.

The exhibit will be in the Association's galleries through March 29. There will be a public tea and reception for the artists from 1 to 5 p,m. today.

Wichita's Art Life

Wichitan's Linoleum Block Print Wins in Exhibit Here

By JOHN P. SIMONI
Wichita University Professor of Art

The place and significance of the fine arts in everyday living is proclaimed highly by business and industry in contemporary America. The Wichita Innes Store exemplifies this interest currently, with its Second Annual "Living with Art" Exhibition of paintings and prints on display in the fifth floor Shop of Decorations.

Dorothy Wadsworth, University of Wichita graduate student and teaching-fellow, is first prize winner in the exhibition. The picture that won the award for her is a large linoleum block print, "The Martyrdom of St. Sebastian." She shows convincing understanding of religious symbolism in the interpretation of meaning and artistic form. The print also exhibits its decorative qualities as art in present-day interior design.

Judges Widely Known

Prizes were awarded by an esteemed jury of three artists: Raymond Eastwood, director of the department of painting at the University of Kansas; Thomas Russell, distinguished artist from the Kansas City Art Institute, and Robert Bailey, a Kansas City painter. From a collection of 140 entries, 35 pictures were selected for exhibition. The jury did well both in its choice of paintings for the exhibition as well as in its rejections. Work was chosen for its values as art. The Innes exhibition is limited to artists residing in Sedgwick County.

The "Living with Art" exhibition is planned and set up by David Holtz, director of Innes' Shop of Decoration, It brings the fine arts to the many visitors to the store. Holtz comments: "We should like to see the artist attracted by our competition and enter his work because it will be seen by many people and shoppers will want to purchase it for beauty in home or office." The work is sold at the artist's own price.

Well Arranged

All pictures are displayed in artistically arranged room and color settings. They are shown to enhance the works' finer qualities. Barbara Holt Simpson, housewife and artist, won second prize with "String Quartet," a playful movement of patterns that are decoratively arranged and satisfying. The oil painting "Structures in Space" by David Yust, talented young Wichitan and student of engineering and architecture at Kansas State, Manhattan, won third prize. Yust's promise and artistic bent is shown in his painting and in the identification of his work by a distinguished jury.

Delightful color arrangements and moving forces are displayed by Richard Slimon in his canvases "Lady and White Lace" and "Tenth Day of Christmas." His color qualities are brilliantly fresh. Among the work selected for exhibition are pictures by William Best, Tom and Bill Dickerson, Wanda Boroughs, David Tammany, Charles Sanderson, James Davis, Robert Kiskadden, Eugene Harwick, Dave Cale, Lowell Adams, and others.

Art can here be seen in a milieu for advantageous appreciation of it as home decoration.

LEFT—SUNSHINE AND SHADOW — The shady east lawn of the Courthouse will be used for the outdoor displays. Mrs. A. E. Howse, center, assistant chairman of the Art and Craft show, discusses the fair with Mrs. Tom Bailey, sculptor, and Charles Sanderson, artist. Mrs. Kenneth Brasted, chairman, said: "All artists are welcome." Artists, sculptors and craftsmen of the area are invited to exhibit and show their original work. Artists will be assigned an area approximately 4 by 10 feet, and will set up their own exhibits. The only cost to exhibitors is $1 per space, with displays limited to two per artist.

The Wichita Beacon

Page 12B

Tuesday, November 15, 1966

Second Front

Staff Photo by Robert Stone

Charles Sanderson added shading on a stage backdrop.

It will be used in South's "West Side Story" this weekend.

Busy South High Art Teacher Paints School Play Backdrop

Charles Sanderson is not a sometime artist.

He teaches art at South High School five days a week, instructs at the Wichita Art Association on Tuesday and Thursday nights and on Saturday afternoon and — in his spare time — manages to paint for himself.

SANDERSON currently is painting a backdrop for a South High drama production, "West Side Story," to be presented Friday and Saturday nights.

"It is supposed to be city dwellings or an alley type scene," he explained of the backdrop. He has been working on it two weeks.

The backdrop isn't quite finished, Sanderson said today, but he isn't worried. It will be ready for the play.

"I have a few things to do . . . like shading. I'll put in shadows from other buildings," he said.

To paint the huge — 18 by 40-foot — backdrop, the artist used brushes, rollers and an air gun. Because of its size, the work was done on the stage.

The fate of the giant painting — after the play — has not been determined.

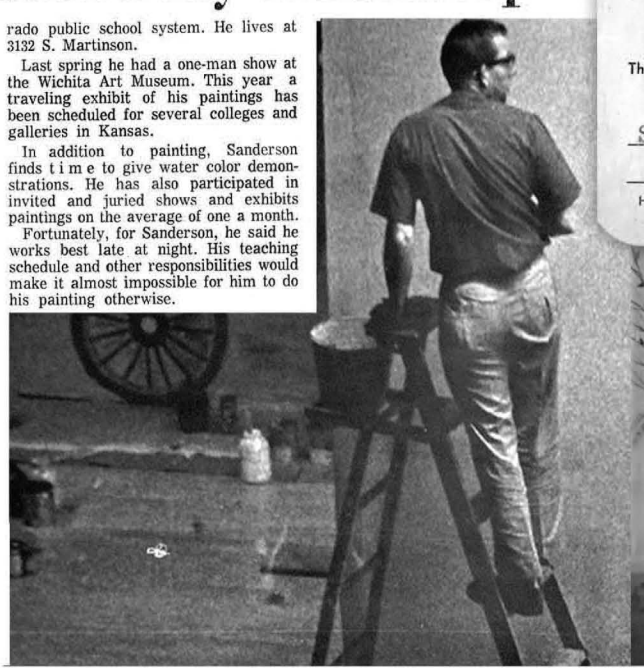
Sanderson says he works on sets for drama productions every year.

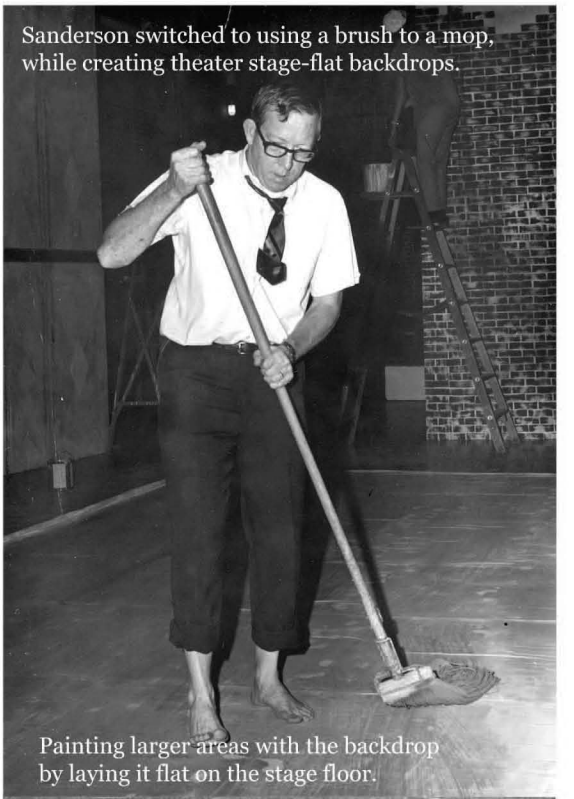
The teacher-artist is a Flint Hills native of Hamilton, Kan. He came to Wichita eight years ago from the El Dorado public school system. He lives at 3132 S. Martinson.

Last spring he had a one-man show at the Wichita Art Museum. This year a traveling exhibit of his paintings has been scheduled for several colleges and galleries in Kansas.

In addition to painting, Sanderson finds time to give water color demonstrations. He has also participated in invited and juried shows and exhibits paintings on the average of one a month.

Fortunately, for Sanderson, he said he works best late at night. His teaching schedule and other responsibilities would make it almost impossible for him to do his painting otherwise.





Sanderson switched to using a brush to a mop, while creating theater stage-flat backdrops.

Painting larger areas with the backdrop by laying it flat on the stage floor.

The National Thespian Society

DEVOTED TO THE ADVANCEMENT OF DRAMATIC ARTS IN THE SECONDARY SCHOOLS

COLLEGE HILL STATION CINCINNATI 24, OHIO

This certifies that Charles Sanderson is an HONORARY MEMBER of Thespian Troupe 182,

South (High School), Wichita (City), Kansas (State)

Karen Styles, Sponsor.

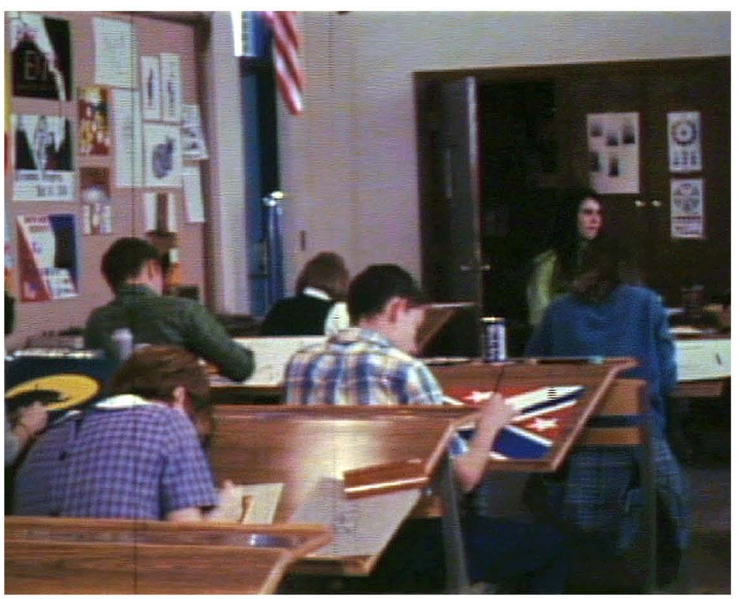
Honorary memberships are granted by the National Council only to those recommended by our local troupes and sponsors.

Around 1966 Sanderson's students began shooting a comedy film using his family's 8mm camera; they called it "Smelly Tennis Shoes & Road Graders." One of the segments in the movie features "Super Sanderson."

In the film segment, Super Sanderson is sitting at his desk in the South High art room (1A), he receives a note calling for assistance. He is wearing an apron (pictured. left); he jumps up to take action while removing his glasses, then throws the apron around behind him as a cape. But, instead of leaving the room, he runs right into the wall because he can no longer see anything without his glasses on.

The cape in the photo is the original one made by Ruth Sanderson, the medallion (pictured, bottom left) was made later by Sanderson. Pictured on the right are frame stills from the original 8mm film sequence.

Wichita High School South, Room A1 1959 - 1985



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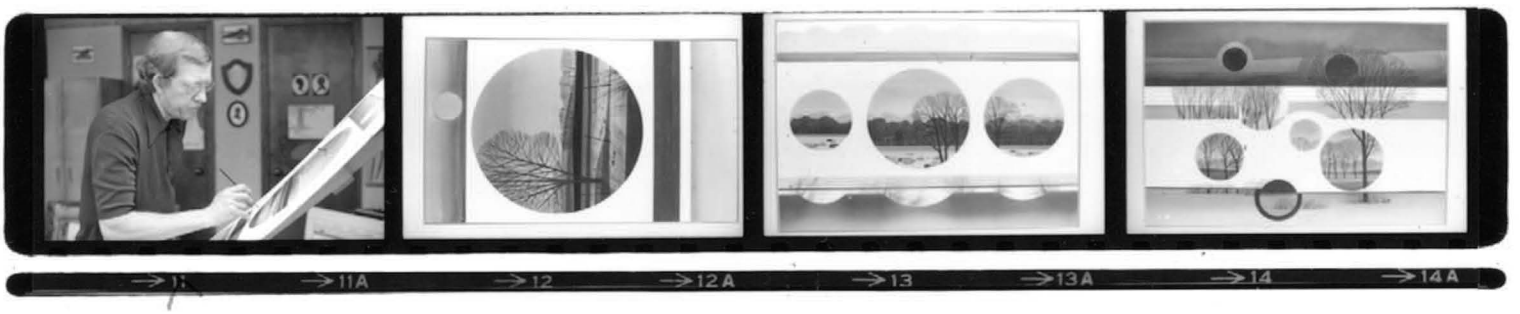
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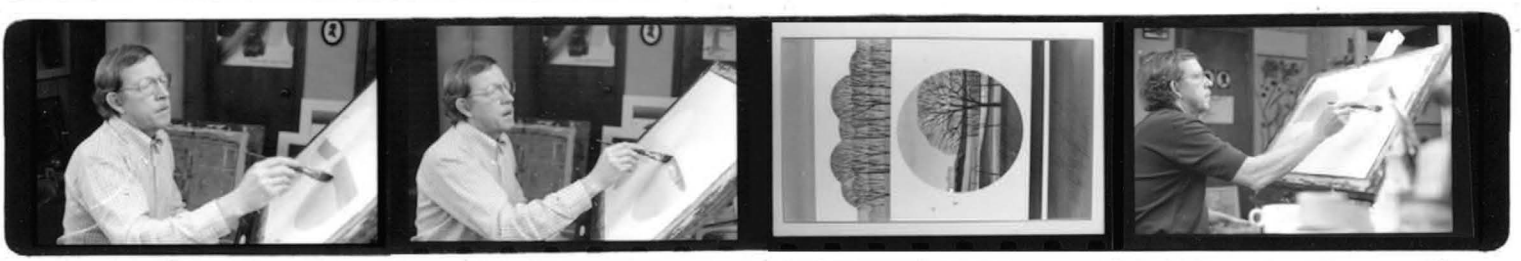
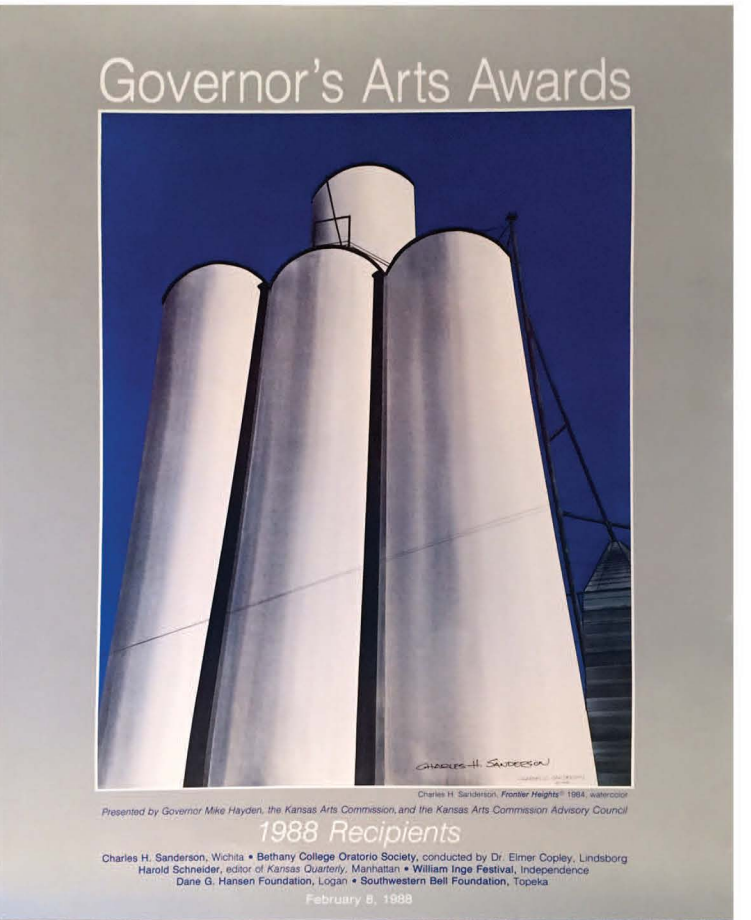
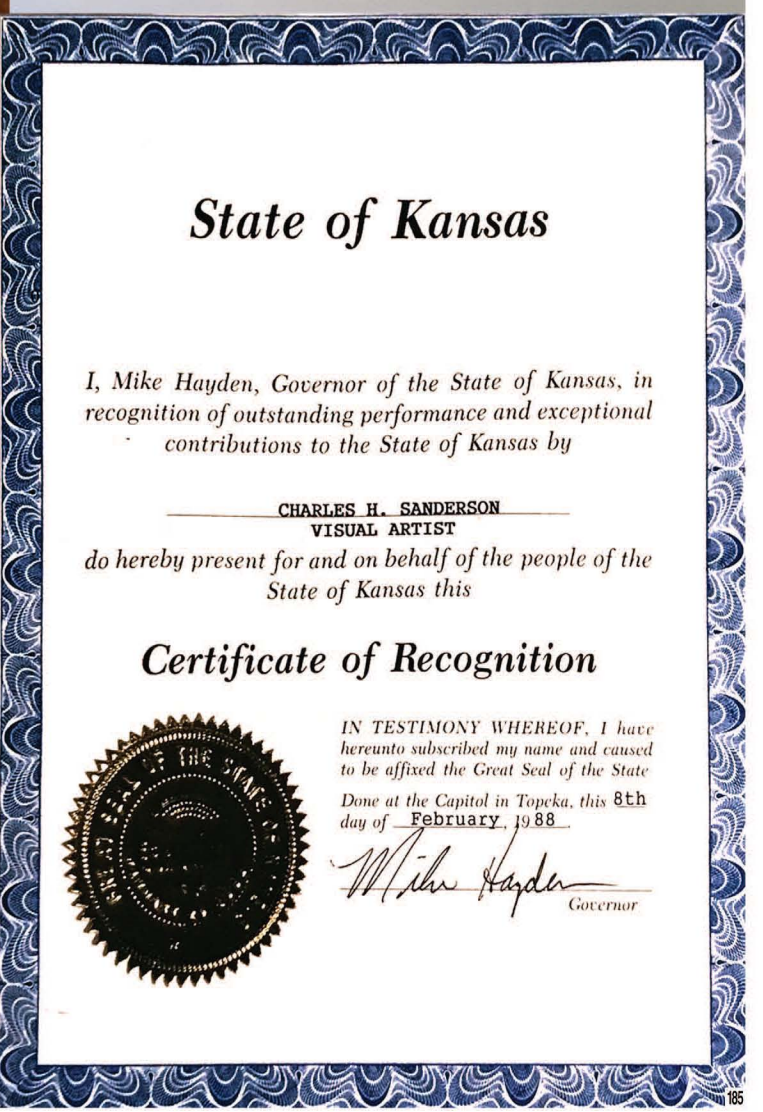


CHARLES H. SANGER
WICHITA, KANSAS

The Wichitan, May 1981

From 1975 to 2011, the Kansas Arts Commission gave arts awards to distinguished Kansas artists through the state governor's office. Charles Sanderson was the 1988 recipient of the award. This photo displays Charles receiving the award at the Kansas State Capitol building in Topeka, Kansas.





State of Kansas

I, Mike Hayden, Governor of the State of Kansas, in recognition of outstanding performance and exceptional contributions to the State of Kansas by

CHARLES H. SANDERSON
VISUAL ARTIST

do hereby present for and on behalf of the people of the State of Kansas this

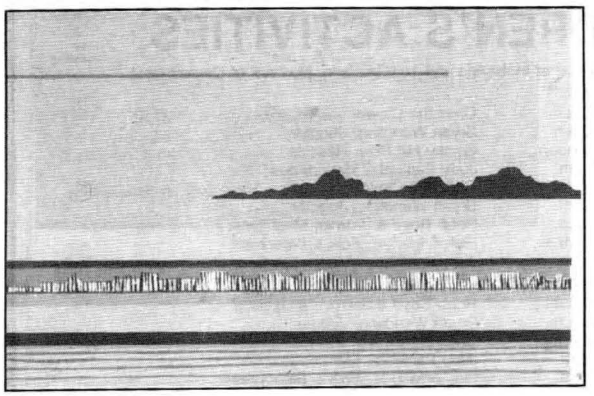
Certificate of Recognition

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State

Done at the Capitol in Topeka, this 8th *day of* February, 1988

Mike Hayden
Governor

185



"Festive Town" by Charles Sanderson

Artist depicts festival's consistency

By DAN HESS
Journal Staff Writer

Charles Sanderson has been a fixture at the Smoky Hill River Festival since its inception, displaying and selling his artistic works to festival goers.

For the last five years, since he retired from teaching art at various schools in Kansas, the 66-year-old Wichitan has taken up art full-time.

"When I was teaching, I did a lot of painting to prepare for the day I could do this full-time," Sanderson said. "If you want to do something with it, you have to put your heart into it."

Sanderson was commissioned this year by the Salina Arts and Humanities Commission to create a limited edition thank-you print for individuals and businesses who support the festival with a contribution of $50 or more.

His print this year is entitled "Festive Town" and is a serigraph on Rives paper.

He hand pulled 200 of the limited-edition five-color prints, numbered and signed by Sanderson. The printing alone took about five hours. Design took several more hours in addition to the process of color separation necessary for the printing.

The basic idea of "Festive Town" is to show the multi-colored excitement and happiness in Salina during the Smoky Hill River Festival, he said.

Viewing the print upward from the bottom, the blue of the river gives way to red-orange and yellow bands depicting Kansas wheat, then the city's skyline in patriotic red, white and blue beneath a blue sky.

The one red cloud suggests movement toward next year's festival, while the long blue line high in the sky illustrates the festival's enriching consistency.

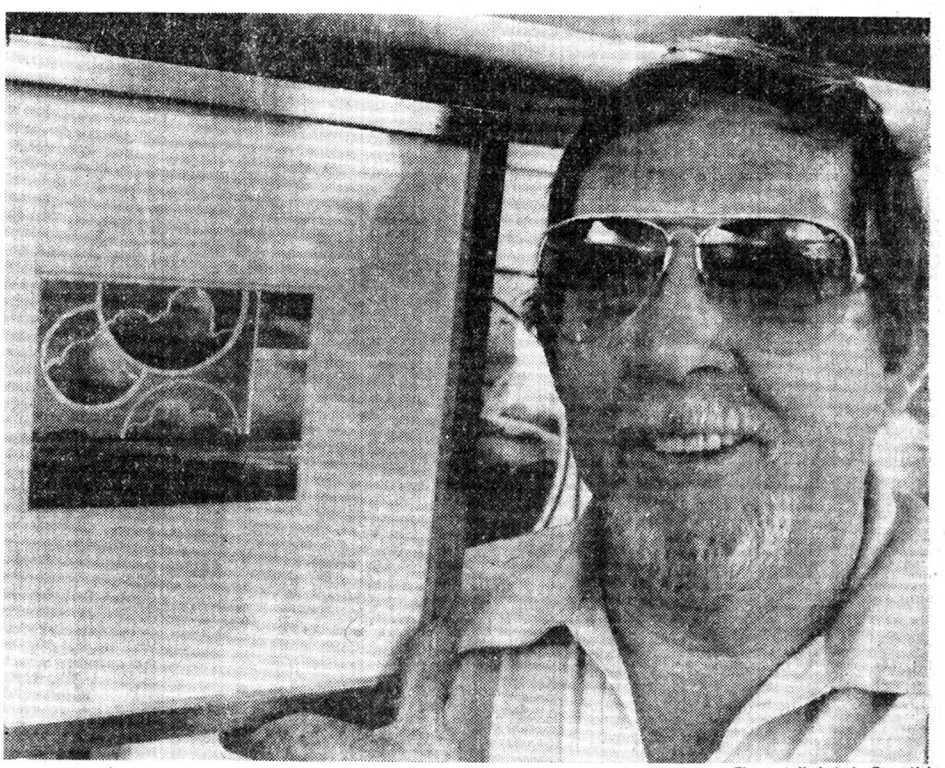
A commemorative tree was planted along with a dedication plaque at The Smoky Hill River Festival grounds in Oakdale Park, Salina, Kansas by Ruth's brother John Wachholz and his wife Bette Sue in 1995.

WPA

TIMES Local News
Friday, April 24, 1981 • 11

Painter member of select group

Whiskey satisfies his palette



Times staff photo by Doug Hoke

Wichita Whiskey Painter Charles Sanderson and sample. . . it needs a steady hand and spirited palate.

By Jon Denton

Give Charles Sanderson a shot of cheap bourbon and he's more likely to dip a brush in it than swallow it.

He's a "whiskey painter," one of a breed of 120 in America. Drunks are not encouraged, he said.

"At least I don't know any," the Wichita artist said today at his booth at the Festival of the Arts. "Not everyone can paint small. It can drive you crazy."

Sanderson joined Whiskey Painters of America in 1977. At the invitation of an admiring member, he picked a late night hour, bought some cheap bourbon and took up tiny brushes and his watercolors.

He started painting. The first work he threw away.

"I tried straight bourbon full strength. Too watery," he recalls.

When he got it right, his witness, required by the Whiskey Painters' bylaws, signed for him and off went two miniature paintings, 4 by 5 inches, to Akron, Ohio.

Whiskey Painter judges agreed the paintings were good enough. His sponsor kept one, and the Akron society got the other for display.

He's been whiskey painting ever since.

Because he teaches during the day, he paints mostly at night, switching from large canvas to small as his watercolors develop.

Whiskey painters are encouraged to use leisure time constructively, especially at bars and parties. That's how the practice started, he said.

The idea was born at a cocktail lounge, the group's literature says.

Actually, however, it was a in bar, Sanderson said.

One night, J.V. Ferriot, an industrial designer and painter in Akron, dipped a brush in spirits and watercolors and sketched on a napkin.

The miniatures started selling. Ferriot may have been playing, but he saw something with a future.

He invited other professional artists to try it for after-hours fun. The little art works they dashed off became collector's items.

As Americans will do, they drew up bylaws in 1969. The painters' group has grown since then, but not too fast.

"We've got to keep the number down," Sanderson said, tongue in cheek and quality in mind. "We don't want the whole nation to go wet."

He paints eight or 10 works at once, since watercolors require drying between sessions. The tiny pieces take from one to three hours.

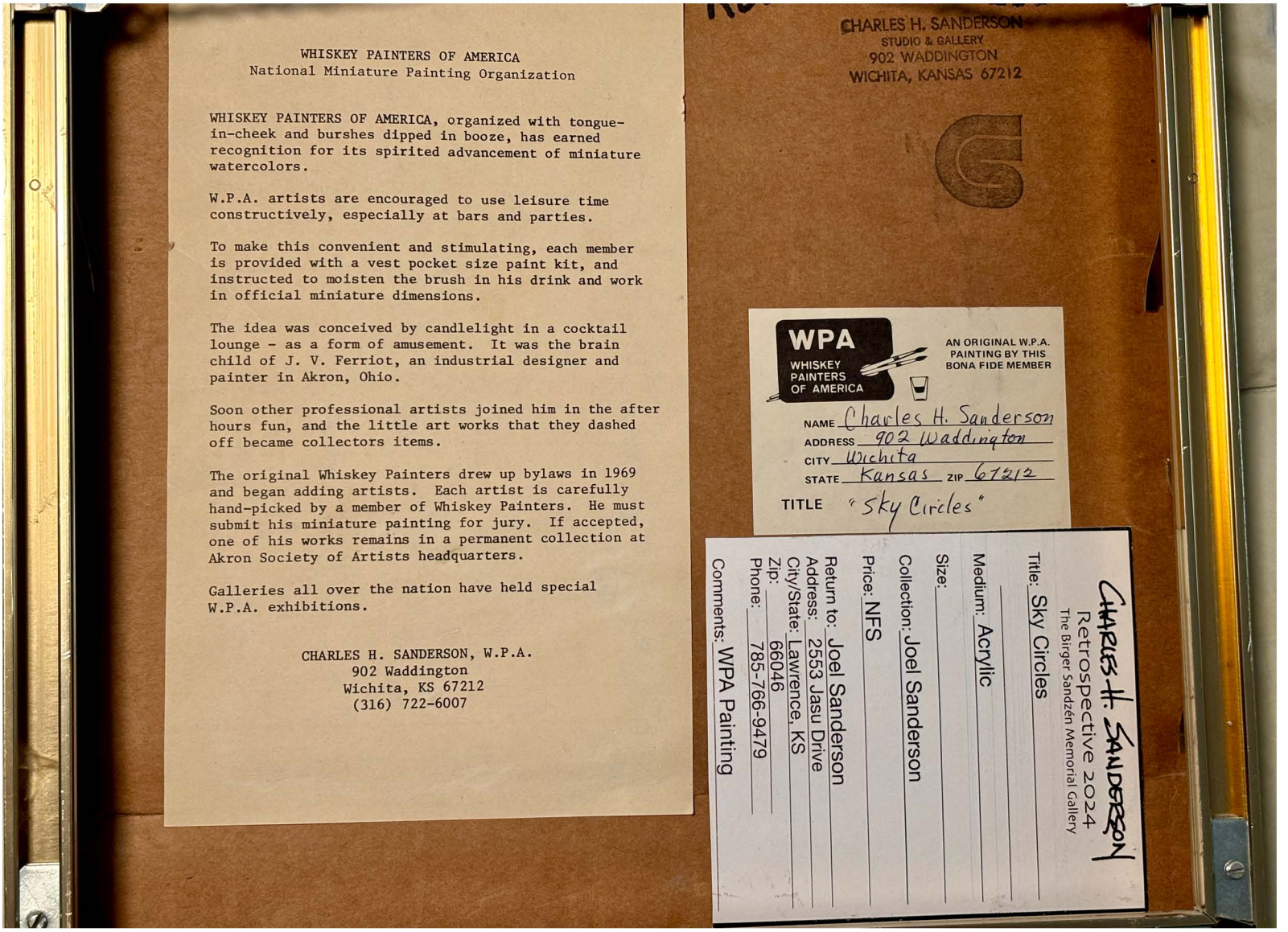
"I'm always trying to improve. If you don't do that, you ought to stop."

He denies he paints what's popular to sell, although he said his selling is doing great at this year's festival. He has won two purchase awards.

"I paint to sell, yes, but I paint for my satisfaction first. I try to learn from teaching, and put that into painting. You ought to be able to do that."

But does he ever drink and paint?

"Nope," Sanderson said. "It's a different world and you have to have a clear mind. And a steady hand."



WHISKEY PAINTERS OF AMERICA
National Miniature Painting Organization

WHISKEY PAINTERS OF AMERICA, organized with tongue-in-cheek and bursches dipped in booze, has earned recognition for its spirited advancement of miniature watercolors.

W.P.A. artists are encouraged to use leisure time constructively, especially at bars and parties.

To make this convenient and stimulating, each member is provided with a vest pocket size paint kit, and instructed to moisten the brush in his drink and work in official miniature dimensions.

The idea was conceived by candlelight in a cocktail lounge - as a form of amusement. It was the brain child of J. V. Ferriot, an industrial designer and painter in Akron, Ohio.

Soon other professional artists joined him in the after hours fun, and the little art works that they dashed off became collectors items.

The original Whiskey Painters drew up bylaws in 1969 and began adding artists. Each artist is carefully hand-picked by a member of Whiskey Painters. He must submit his miniature painting for jury. If accepted, one of his works remains in a permanent collection at Akron Society of Artists headquarters.

Galleries all over the nation have held special W.P.A. exhibitions.

CHARLES H. SANDERSON, W.P.A.
902 Waddington
Wichita, KS 67212
(316) 722-6007

CHARLES H. SANDERSON
STUDIO & GALLERY
902 WADDINGTON
WICHITA, KANSAS 67212

WPA
WHISKEY PAINTERS OF AMERICA

AN ORIGINAL W.P.A. PAINTING BY THIS BONA FIDE MEMBER

NAME Charles H. Sanderson
ADDRESS 902 Waddington
CITY Wichita
STATE Kansas ZIP 67212
TITLE "Sky Circles"

Charles H. Sanderson
Retrospective 2024
The Birger Sandzén Memorial Gallery

Title: Sky Circles
Medium: Acrylic
Size:
Collection: Joel Sanderson
Price: NFS
Return to: Joel Sanderson
Address: 2553 Jasu Drive
City/State: Lawrence, KS
Zip: 66046
Phone: 785-766-9479
Comments: WPA Painting

(Above)
The back of one of the smaller paintings from the exhibit was included because it was a WPA (Whiskey Painters of America) piece. Information about the WPA was written on the back of the painting, which was interesting to see.

(right)
Gerry Wachholz display the commemorative t-shirt from the exhibit.

By **Teri Mott** on Oct 8, 2024

Meticulous yet free: Charles Sanderson at the Birger Sandzén Memorial Gallery

An exhibition of works by the late painter and educator demonstrates how his style changed over the course of 36 years. It's on view in Lindsborg, Kansas, through October 20.

VISUAL ART REVIEWS

Charles Sanderson, "Trinocular," 1975, watercolor on paper, from the collection of Joel Sanderson and Kristina Hermanson.

The ideal place to experience the "Charles H. Sanderson Retrospective" is within the bright, buttery walls of the Birger Sandzén Memorial Gallery. On display through October 20, the exhibition is an affectionate journey through the accomplished painter and teacher's long career. The welcoming, mid-century modern space reflects the retro experimentation that visitors will recognize in Sanderson's adventurous watercolor, oil, and acrylic paintings.

The exhibition — coordinated by Charla Sanderson and Joel Sanderson — feels like a family reunion. This is par for the course for the Sandersons, all of whom — Charla, Joel, and youngest daughter, Karin Swanson-Sanderson — are professional artists who loaned the gallery works by their father from their personal collections.

From left: Charla Sanderson views works by her father at the Birger Sandzén Memorial Gallery. At right, she arranges archival objects related to her father. *Courtesy photos by Joel Sanderson.*

Charles Howard Sanderson (1925-1993) painted and lived in Kansas, where he received a bachelor's degree in art education from Emporia State and a master's in fine arts from Fort Hays State. In 1952, he married Ruth Wachholz, who became a devoted partner in his creative endeavors. The artist had a passion for teaching and inspiring a love of art in public school students in Altoona, Lyons, and El Dorado, before relocating to Wichita in 1959 and teaching at Wichita High School South for 26 years.

He also taught at Kansas State, Wichita State, and Friends University as well as the Wichita Art Association/Wichita Center for the Arts and the Wichita Art Museum. He was a member of The Artists Guild of Wichita and was recipient of the Kansas Governors Award in 1988. For more than 35 years, nearly every night after a full day of teaching, Sanderson painted from 7-11 p.m., trying his hand at a wide range of styles and techniques.

Works by Charles Sanderson, from top left: Foothills Design Squares," 1980, watercolor on paper, from the collection of Charla Sanderson, courtesy photo by Demolition Kitchen Media; "Fragmentalization," 1977, watercolor on paper, from the collection of Joel Sanderson and Kristina Hermanson, courtesy photo by Demolition Kitchen Media; "Frontier Heights," 1984, watercolor on board, from the collection of the Wichita Art Museum, photo by Teri Mott; "Trinocular," 1975, watercolor on paper, from the collection of Joel Sanderson and Kristina Hermanson, courtesy photo by Demolition Kitchen Media; "Earth Energies Triptych," 1984, acrylic on watercolor board, from the collection of The Kansas Oil Museum, courtesy photo by Demolition Kitchen Media; "Confusedness," 1989, watercolor on paper, from the collection of Charla Sanderson; courtesy photo by Demolition Kitchen Media.

A stroll through the show feels like a series of road trips to varied compelling attractions, each telling the story of the painter's sojourns into different styles and media. This may be intentional. The Sanderson kids spent their summer vacations traveling with their parents when Charles had a break from teaching. Ruth, who was also a teacher, scheduled trips to art fairs so Charles could sell his work and pay for their travels.

"Our summer vacation destinations were set where the good art fairs were taking place," Charla reminisced. "This took us all over the country in our van and camper. We had a blast as kids. We got to see a lot of the country and each art fair was like going to see family, as we knew many of the other artists making the rounds as well." No doubt there were ample opportunities for the Sanderson clan to observe the many ways their father's work sprouted and stretched, shimmered and pulsed as he embraced different techniques and inspirations.

"Retrospective" comprises 28 paintings, spanning from 1954 to 1992. The siblings chose to arrange the paintings in pairs, rather than chronologically,

“to better show his ideas and continuous change,” Charla explained. “He was a painter always seeking, always testing, and always experimenting. Each wall has a different focus from realistic to abstract to early experimentation.”

Works by Charles Sanderson, from left: “Mountain Weather,” 1959, watercolor on paper, from the collection of Charla Sanderson; “Impact,” 1954, oil on canvas, from the collection of Joel Sanderson. *Photos by Teri Mott for the SHOUT.*

"Mountain Weather," an aggressive landscape built of bold yellow, crimson, and phthalo strokes is alive with movement. One can imagine the artist briskly applying the paint with expansive, yet efficient, movements, resulting in a piece that feels both abstract and remarkably lifelike. Boasting dripped oil paint in busy layers that intersperse deep, dark lines with flashing bright hues, "Impact" nods toward the work of Jackson Pollack but is pure Sanderson. Both were painted by the artist in the 1950s.

Many of these pieces have an illustrative quality. It would be easy to picture Sanderson drawing cheeky, metropolitan ads for Madison Avenue circa 1961. "Construction," a watercolor from that era, is chock-full of expertly rendered detail, suggesting a metropolis rapidly expanding thanks to the machinations of an imaginary, Rube Goldberg-like city planner. Almost ten years later, Sanderson produced "Inner Urban," another civic landscape that finds the artist building on smooth, blue swaths of paint with structural details and lines piled atop each other — a city so densely populated that its neighborhoods seem to be melting together.

Works by Charles Sanderson, from left: “Construction,” 1961, watercolor on paper, from the collection of Joel Sanderson; “Inner Urban,” 1970, watercolor on paper, from the Emprise Collection. *Photos by Teri Mott for the SHOUT.*

Landscapes Sanderson painted in the 1970s and 1980s capture an aesthetic that is reminiscent of those eras but are unmistakably the artist’s own. In "From the Prairies to the Mountains,” he captures the widely varied geography of the central U.S., rendering it in vivid gold, lush plum, and familiar stretches of blue. We can clearly spot the Flint Hills, the Great Plains, mountains, and rivers executed in his meticulous, yet free, style that gives us the impression that we are driving by these natural wonders.

Charles H. Sanderson, "From the Prairies to the Mountains," 1978, watercolor on board, from the collection of the Wichita Art Museum. *Photo by Teri Mott for the SHOUT.*

More experimental pieces are featured as well, including "Intagrid," a 1988 work for which the artist painted in vivid abstraction, sliced the painted surface into strips, and wove them together, forming a piece that captures the relentless, graceful movement inherent in so many of his paintings.

At the heart of the exhibition are two glass cases filled with photos, memorabilia, and personal items that belonged to Charles Sanderson. This display adds context and further information about the artist and his passion to create — and to share the gift of creativity with his family, friends, students, and myriad fans.

Archival materials about Charles H. Sanderson on display in the "Retrospective" exhibition. *Photos by Teri Mott for the SHOUT.*

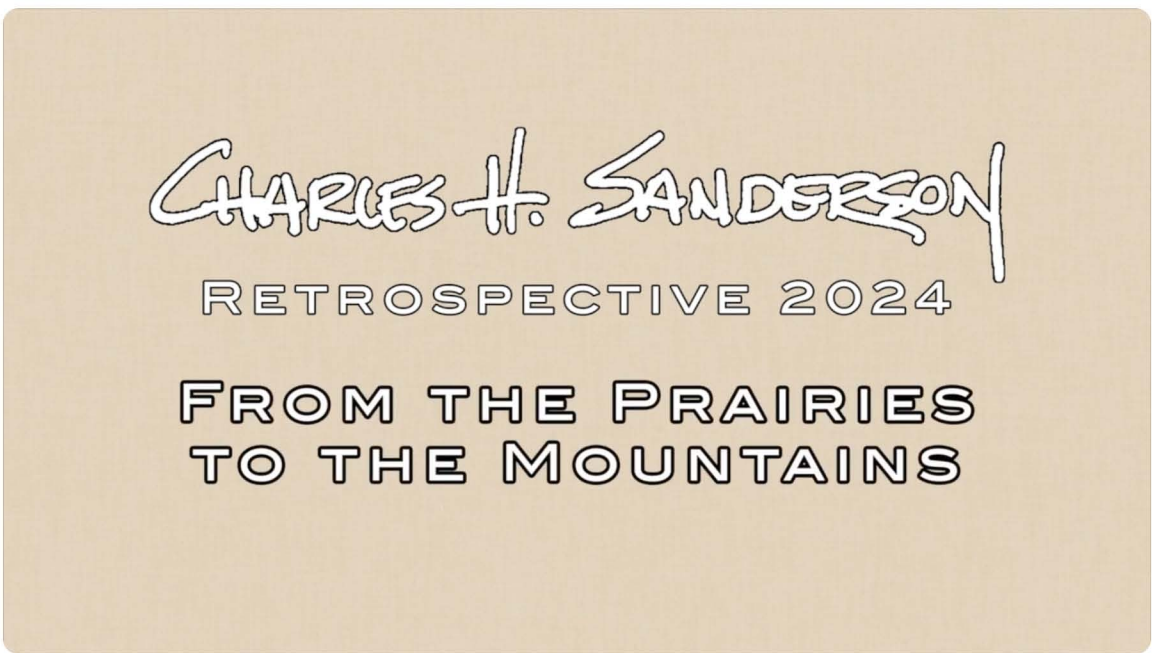
The Details

"Charles H. Sanderson Retrospective"
Through Sunday, October 20 at Birger Sandzén Memorial Gallery, 401 N. 1st St. in Lindsborg, Kansas

Charla Sanderson and Joel Sanderson will present a lecture about their father, the man and the artist, on Sunday, October 13 at 2 p.m. at the Birger Sandzén Memorial Gallery.

Installation images from "Charles H. Sanderson Retrospective," on view through October 20.

Teri Mott *is a writer and actor in Wichita, Kansas, where she covers the arts as a critic and feature writer. She is a co-founder of the SHOUT.*



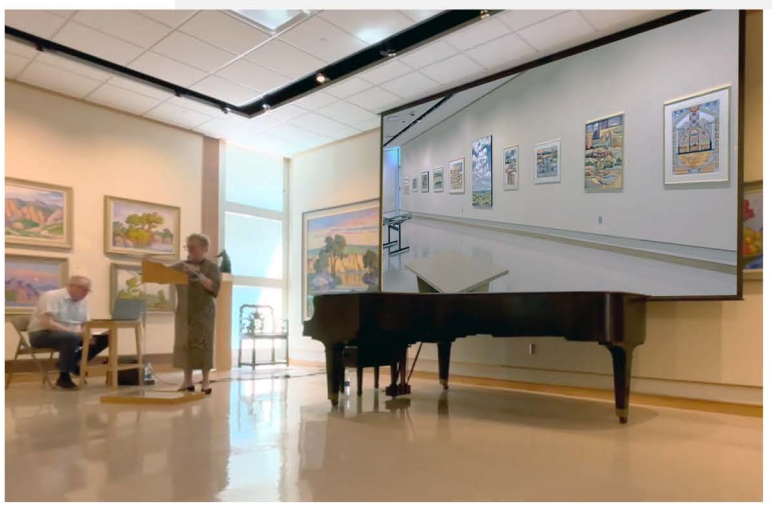
Charles H. Sanderson - Birger Sandzen History Lecture, 2024

Demolition Kitchen Video
1.1K subscribers

Analytics | Edit video | 2 | Share | Promote | •••

299 views Oct 25, 2024

A history lecture on the life of Kansas landscape artist Charles H. Sanderson, presented by his daughter Charla Sanderson. Held at the Birger Sandzen Gallery in Lindsborg, Kansas, on October 13th, 2024, at the gallery in conjunction with a retrospective exhibit of Sanderson's paintings. This is an edited version of the original documentation video, combining the backing video for better clarity and other elements. Demolition Kitchen Video produced the backing video for the lecture, edited the presentation, and produced the music.



"Earth Station Geo"
Acrylic, 1989

Social Media posts on the exhibit

Birger Sandzén Memorial Gallery
1d ·

We hope to see you this Sunday at 2!

Arts on the Prairie · Follow
1d ·

🎨 Reminder: Charles H. Sanderson Retrospective This Sunday! 🎨

Don't miss the Charles H. Sanderson Retrospective at the Sandzén Gallery on October 13, 2024, from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. 🌟

Charla Sanderson will be presenting a talk on her father's influential work, including his architectural studies and Kansas scenes. It's a unique opportunity to appreciate the legacy of this talented artist.

📅 Date: October 13, 2024
⏰ Time: 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
🌟 Location: Sandzén Gallery

#ArtsOnThePrairie #CharlesSanderson #ArtRetrospective #SandzénGallery #KansasArtists

Instagram

Birger Sandzén Memorial Gallery
1h ·

Article on our Charles Sanderson exhibition in The Shout!

shoutwichita.com
Meticulous yet free: Charles Sanderson at the Birger Sandzén Memorial Gallery

Teri Mott
16 hours ago·

I am honored to have had the opportunity to write about this beautiful retrospective exhibition of the work of Charles Sanderson at the Birger Sandzén Memorial Gallery in Lindsborg. Do yourself a favor and see it before it closes on October 20. ❤️

SHOUTWICHITA.COM
Meticulous yet free: Charles Sanderson at the Birger Sandzén Memorial Gallery

sandzengallery · Sledi

sandzengallery Last couple of days to see art by Charles Sanderson, @johnerichardson , Noah Flores and Carl Reling - plus, there's an @artsontheprairie sponsored woodcarving workshop taking place today (Saturday 10/19)!
pred 1 tednom

ictinsd Charles Sanderson was my art teacher at South High in Wichita. So proud to own a couple of his works.
pred 1 tednom 1 všeček Odgovori

Št. všečkov: 52
19. oktober

Če želite všečkati ali komentirati, Prijava.

Cori Schnittke Sherman North
10h ·

Charles H. Sanderson Retrospective now up at the Sandzen Birger Sandzén Memorial Gallery! Opening reception on Sunday, August 4 starting at 2:00 :)

Joel Sanderson
18h ·

Charles H. Sanderson - 2024 Retrospective Exhibit promo

youtube.com
Charles H. Sanderson - 2024 Retrospective Exhibit promo

David Woolard
1d ·

Wonderful show about an amazing artist!

Charles H. Sanderson
1d ·

Thanks to everyone who attended the opening of the Charles H. Sanderson Retrospective exhibit at the Birger Sandzen Gallery in Lindsborg. It was a succe... See more

Cori Schnittke Sherman North and 11 others

Birger Sandzén Memorial Gallery
Just now ·

Learn more about the life and work of Charles H. Sanderson on Sunday, October 13, at 2 p.m.

Arts on the Prairie
September 22 at 10:00 AM ·

🥧✨ Explore the Legacy of Charles H. Sanderson! ✨🥧

Join us on Sunday, October 13, 2024, from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. for a special Charles H. Sanderson Retrospective at the Sandzén Gallery. 🖼️

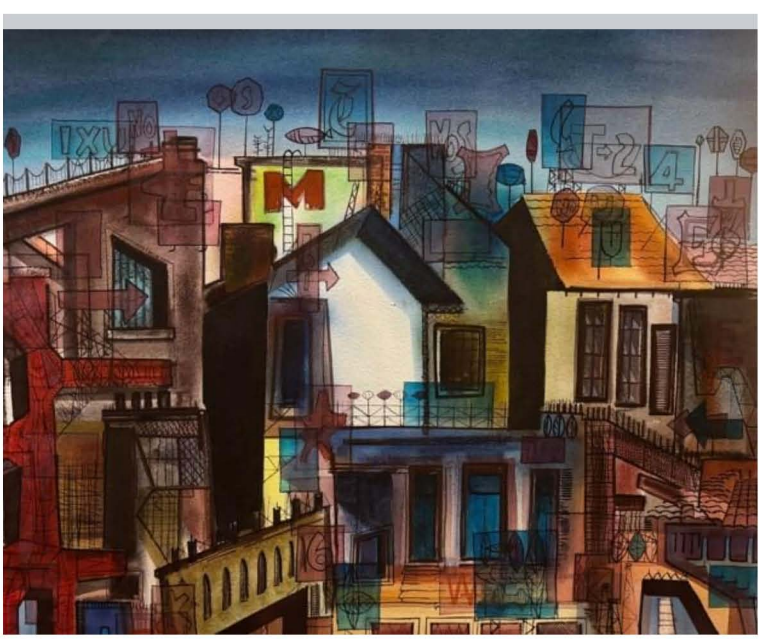
Enjoy an insightful talk by Charla Sanderson, celebrating the life and work of her father, Charles H. Sanderson (1925-1993). Known for his architectural influences and evocative Kansas scenes, Sanderson's work reflects a deep connection to the Flint Hills and his innovative contributions to art education.

Event Highlights:

🎤 Talk by Charla Sanderson
🖼️ Retrospective of Charles H. Sanderson's work
📅 Date: October 13, 2024
⏰ Time: 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
🌟 Location: Sandzén Gallery

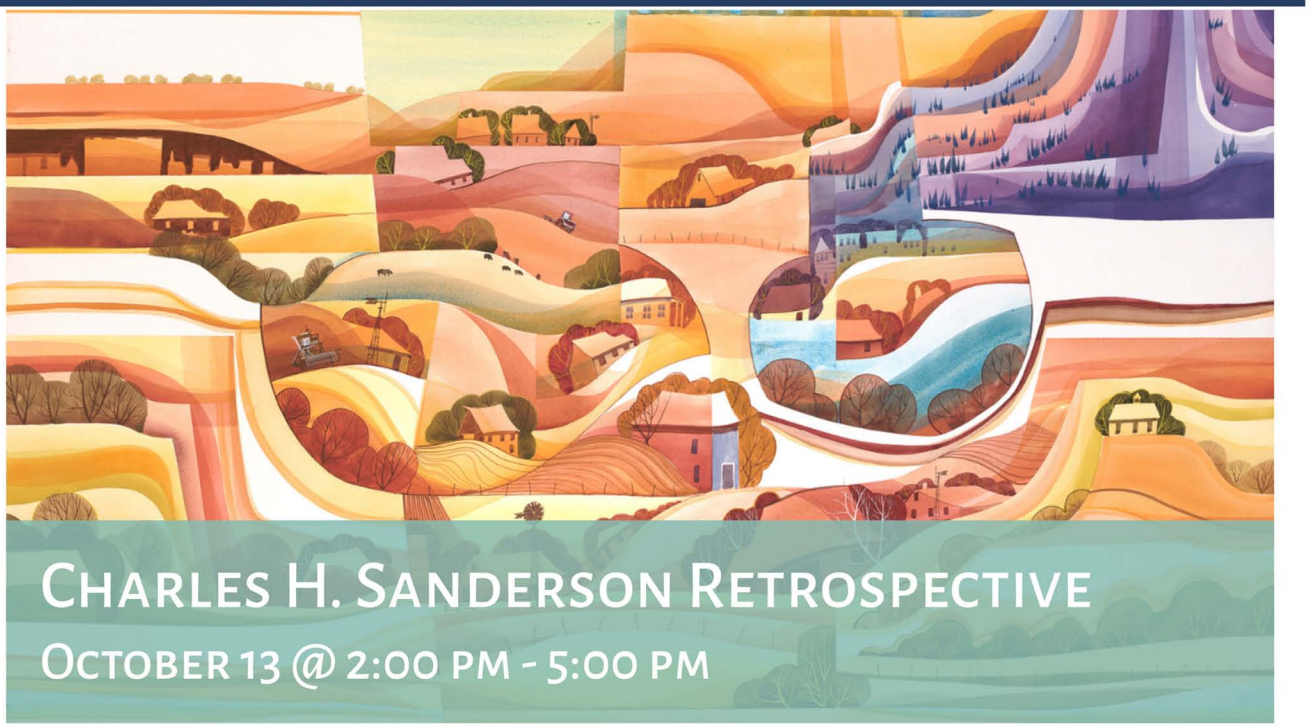
Birger Sandzén Memorial Gallery's post

Like Comment Send Share



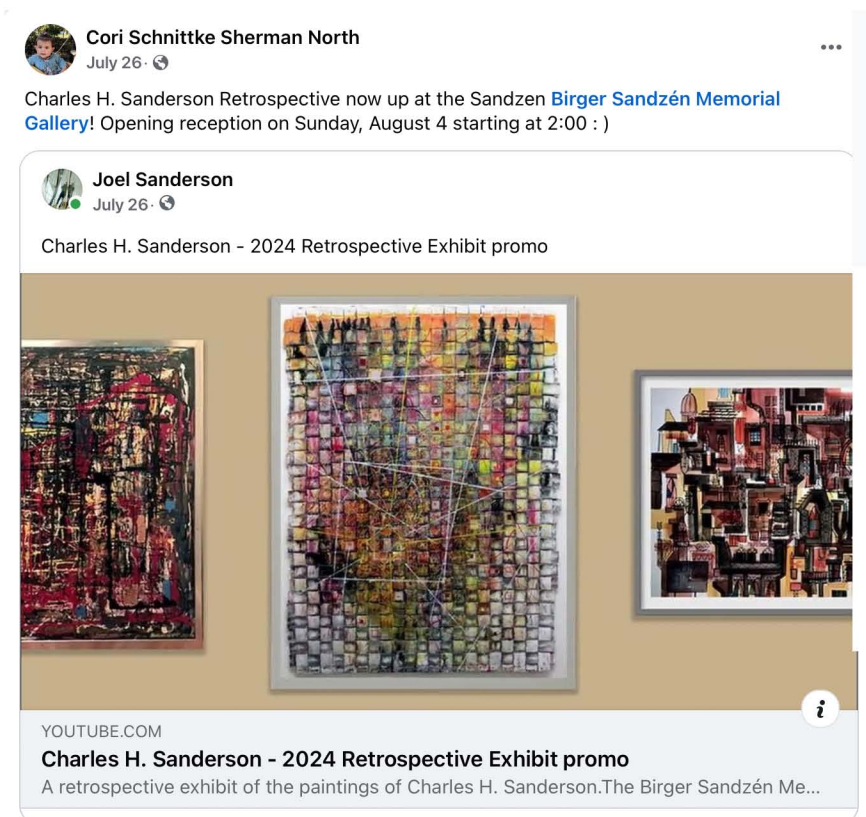
Charles H. Sanderson (1925-1993), a Kansas native, was a Wichita watercolorist known for depicting the Kansas Flint Hills. His style evolved from realistic, rural landscapes to more abstract and geometric forms.

ARTS ON THE PRAIRIE
workshops for creative spirits



Charles H. Sanderson Retrospective (1925-1993) talk by his daughter, Charla, to support a retrospective of Sanderson's work at the Sandzén Gallery.

Charles Sanderson was born in the Kansas Flint Hills. He originally studied architecture, and after transferring to Emporia State University, he earned a BA in Art Education and then, later, a Master of Fine Arts Degree at Fort Hays State. He spent 35 years as an art instructor in public schools, community colleges, and Universities. He also founded the Kansas Watercolor Society. His early architectural studies often influenced his work and are reflective of Kansas scenes.



Four New Exhibitions Through October 20

Four new exhibitions open at the **Birger Sandzén Memorial Gallery** on Sunday, August 4, and continue through October 20. They feature a retrospective by Wichita artist Charles H. Sanderson, paintings by Johne Richardson of Overland Park, and Noah Flores of Marquette, Kansas, and illustrations by Manhattan's Carl Reling. A reception for the exhibitions will be on Sunday, August 4, 2:00-4:00pm, with exhibition talks beginning at 2:30pm.

Charles H. Sanderson (1925-1993), a Kansas native, was a Wichita watercolorist known for depicting the Kansas Flint Hills. His style evolved from realistic, rural landscapes to more abstract and geometric forms. Sanderson balanced his career as an artist with his role as an art educator for 35 years, influencing many students and the wider arts community through the **Wichita Art Association** and the annual **Smoky Hill River Festival**. His dedication to art was evident through his prolific output and participation in art fairs, workshops, and collaborative community projects. The artist cofounded the Kansas Watercolor Society and received numerous accolades, including the Governor's Arts Award in 1988.

Sanderson's philosophy was encapsulated in his own words during a 1970s Wichita Public Access Television demonstration of his watercolor techniques: "It's not what's there, or what a photograph shows. It's what you personally see as an artist." His commitment to personal vision and innovation set him apart as a dynamic force in the art world. This exhibit celebrates Charles Sanderson's artistic achievements and his legacy as an educator and community leader.

A son of the prairie, Johne Richardson was born and raised in Kansas and grew up with a fierce love of cowboys, history, the American West, big skies, and wide-open spaces. He began drawing and painting at a very young age, and is working hard at it still. After decades as a successful illustrator and as a teacher and painter in watercolor for more than thirty years, Richardson began to focus specifically on fine art and transitioning to larger works on canvas – first with acrylic and now exclusively in oil. When he's not out seeking inspiration by roaming the prairie or wandering in the mountains, Richardson is generally found hanging out in his studio, painting landscapes and cowboys.

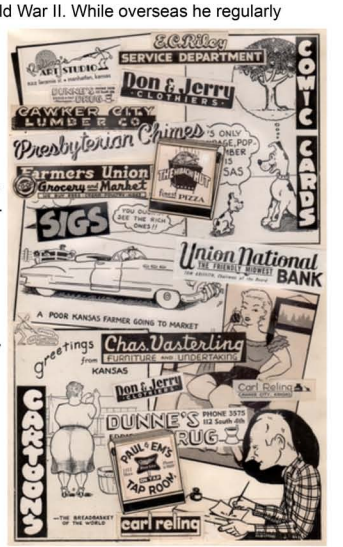
He writes, "The elusive, ever-changing, and subtle roll of the cowboy hat brim, caught in the sunlight, is the most marvelous subject, visually, that I've ever encountered, and perhaps the most difficult to paint. I work hard to simplify the complex countenance of the cowboy – to relate his or her story with large, graphic shapes, a lively surface, color that speaks, is affectionate towards the light, and with a dynamic composition that is always attempting to break free of the boundaries of canvas. And at the same time, I'm attempting to capture an intensely personal, and fleeting, moment or mood. To me, landscapes are portraits as well, with the presence of life, if not a literal part of the image, very much implied."

Also a native Kansan, Noah Flores has always been influenced by the outdoors. He enjoyed the idyllic plains and woodlands of Kansas as a young boy and was also exposed to the American West. These experiences formed his love for the landscape and directed his artistic inspiration. Flores attended Hutchinson Community College where he received an associate's degree in 2006. He then went to Bethany College as a declared art major focused on studio painting and graduated with a BA in 2008.

Regarding this exhibition, Flores writes, "These nocturnal scenes have been created over time and that has allowed me to explore the subject. I remember seeing these moody and mysterious landscape paintings in the art reference books and museums. After thinking about the various aspects of them, I spent time learning how to paint similar, more personal scenes. They are an accurate record of specific places and times. One could trace where I have been like footprints through time.

Carl Frederick Reling (1915-2001) grew up on a farm east of Cawker City, Kansas, before serving in the U.S. Army during World War II. While overseas he regularly wrote V-mail (Victory mail) back home to his family, each illustrated with a drawing or cartoon and carefully saved for next generations. After the war was won, Reling returned to Kansas and settled in Manhattan to work as a compositor and printer for the Manhattan Mercury newspaper for over 30 years.

Largely self-taught as an artist he took correspondence courses through the Washington School of Art in the District of Columbia, working on albums of assignments which were evaluated and returned. Reling earned a diploma from the school in 1947 and continued drawing as a hobby with pencil, pen and ink, well into his 80's. He designed numerous logos and ads for area businesses, published cartoons in weeklies across the country, and printed a series of corny Kansas postcards for friends and family. A selection of Reling's hundreds of drawings and watercolors of everyday life subjects, political war cartoons and V-mail, correspondence school albums, and commercial graphics from over six decades of work reflect the styles and culture of the artist's lifetime experiences.



The **Birger Sandzén Memorial Gallery** is located at 401 N. First Street. Hours are 10:00am-5:00pm, Tuesday through Saturday, and 1:00-5:00pm on Sunday. Admission is free, with donations appreciated. Docent tours for groups are available by two-week advance appointment. For more information about Birger Sandzén, the Gallery, and these exhibitions visit **www.sandzen.org** or phone (785) 227-2220.

More: Experience Lindsborg

"Impact"
Oil, 1954

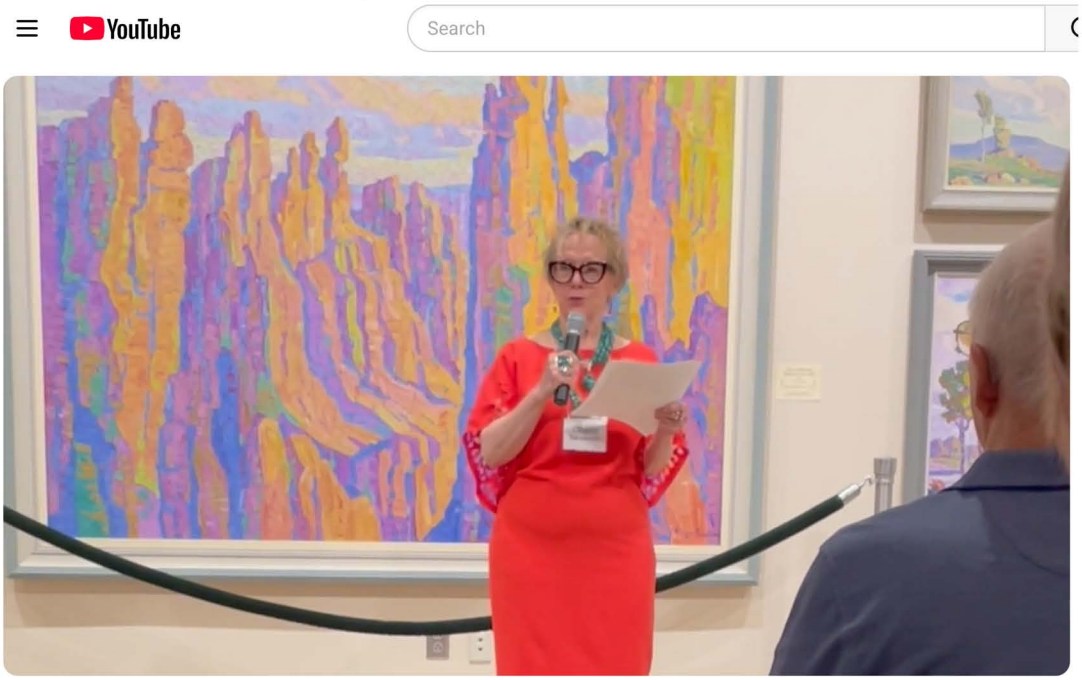
A video documenting the entire exhibit was produced during the run of the show.

Charles H. Sanderson - 2024 Retrospective Exhibit, documentation

Demolition Kitchen Video
1.1K subscribers
Analytics | Edit video | 6 | Share | Promote

102 views Aug 12, 2024
This is a documentation video of the retrospective exhibit of the paintings of Charles H. Sanderson. Held at the Birger Sandzén Memorial Gallery in Lindsborg, Kansas.
The exhibit ran from August 4 through October 20, 2024.

This video shows all of the works selected for this exhibit and details that were included to add background and context. The video features the solo guitar work of Kansas musician Mick Watts.



Charla Sanderson's gallery talk on the exhibit and brief history of Charles H. Sanderson was posting Online.

Charles H. Sanderson - 2024 Retrospective Exhibit, Gallery Talk

Demolition Kitchen Video
1.1K subscribers
Analytics | Edit video | 15 | Share | Promote

550 views Aug 7, 2024
This video is a gallery talk about Charles H. Sanderson by his daughter Charla Sanderson, held during the exhibit's opening reception on August 4th, 2024.

The event features a retrospective exhibit of the paintings of Charles H. Sanderson at The Birger Sandzén Memorial Gallery in Lindsborg, Kansas, from August 4th to October 20th, 2024.

Charles H. Sanderson
Retrospective

Birger Sandzén Memorial Gallery
August 4 - October 20, 2024

Cover for the exhibit program

"Foothills Design Squares"
Watercolor, 1980

(Back cover)
“Cumulusness”
Acrylic, 1979